



Chapter 5

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Regional Approach

Arizona has great physical and social diversity in its 73 million acres (113,417 square miles). It is the sixth largest state in the Nation based on acreage and the twentieth largest based on population (2000 Census).

Six of the seven life zones found in North America (as defined by Dr. C. Hart Merriam) are represented in the state, lacking only a tropical zone. Furthermore, there are numerous historical settlements associated with various cultural traditions, each of which possesses a unique identity.

Arizona contains one of the seven wonders of the world, the Grand Canyon, drawing millions of visitors annually from all over the world. And for decades Arizona has been a mecca for retirees and for “snowbirds” seeking escape from cold, snowy winters.

The 2008 SCORP survey data in Chapter 6 is organized on a regional and statewide basis, with analysis of regional characteristics and opinions of people forming the basic building blocks of their own region and contributing to a more general perspective of the state as a whole.

Arizona’s Councils of Governments

For the purposes of the 2008 SCORP, this plan’s regions are made up of the six Councils of Governments (COGs) whose lands are comprised of Arizona’s fifteen counties (Figure 19).

Through a 1970 Executive Order, the planning boundaries were established by Governor Jack Williams in response to federal planning requirements and in an effort to achieve uniformity in various planning areas.

A council of governments is a public organization encompassing a multi-jurisdictional regional community and serving the local governments and citizens in the region by dealing with issues and needs that cross city, town, county and even state boundaries.

Table 40. Population and Acreage of Arizona's Six COGs

COG (and counties)	2005 Population	Percent of AZ Population	Total Acres of Land	Percent of AZ Land
CAAG -Central Arizona Association of Governments (Gila, Pinal)	301,105	4.98%	6,504,068	8.92%
MAG -Maricopa Association of Governments (Maricopa)	3,648,545	60.36%	5,902,107	8.1%
NACOG -Northern Arizona Council of Governments (Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai)	519,395	8.59%	30,674,683	42.04%
PAG -Pima Association of Governments (Pima)	957,635	15.84%	5,877,511	8.06%
SEAGO -South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz)	219,600	3.63%	8,919,249	12.24%
WACOG -Western Arizona Council of Governments (La Paz, Mohave, Yuma)	398,705	6.6%	15,053,540	20.64%
statewide	6,044,985	100%	72,931,158	100%

COGs are planning agencies that provide a regional forum for analysis, discussion and resolution of issues including areas of regional development, transportation, air and water quality, environment, and social services. Methods used to address these issues include planning, policy-making, coordination, advocacy and technical assistance.

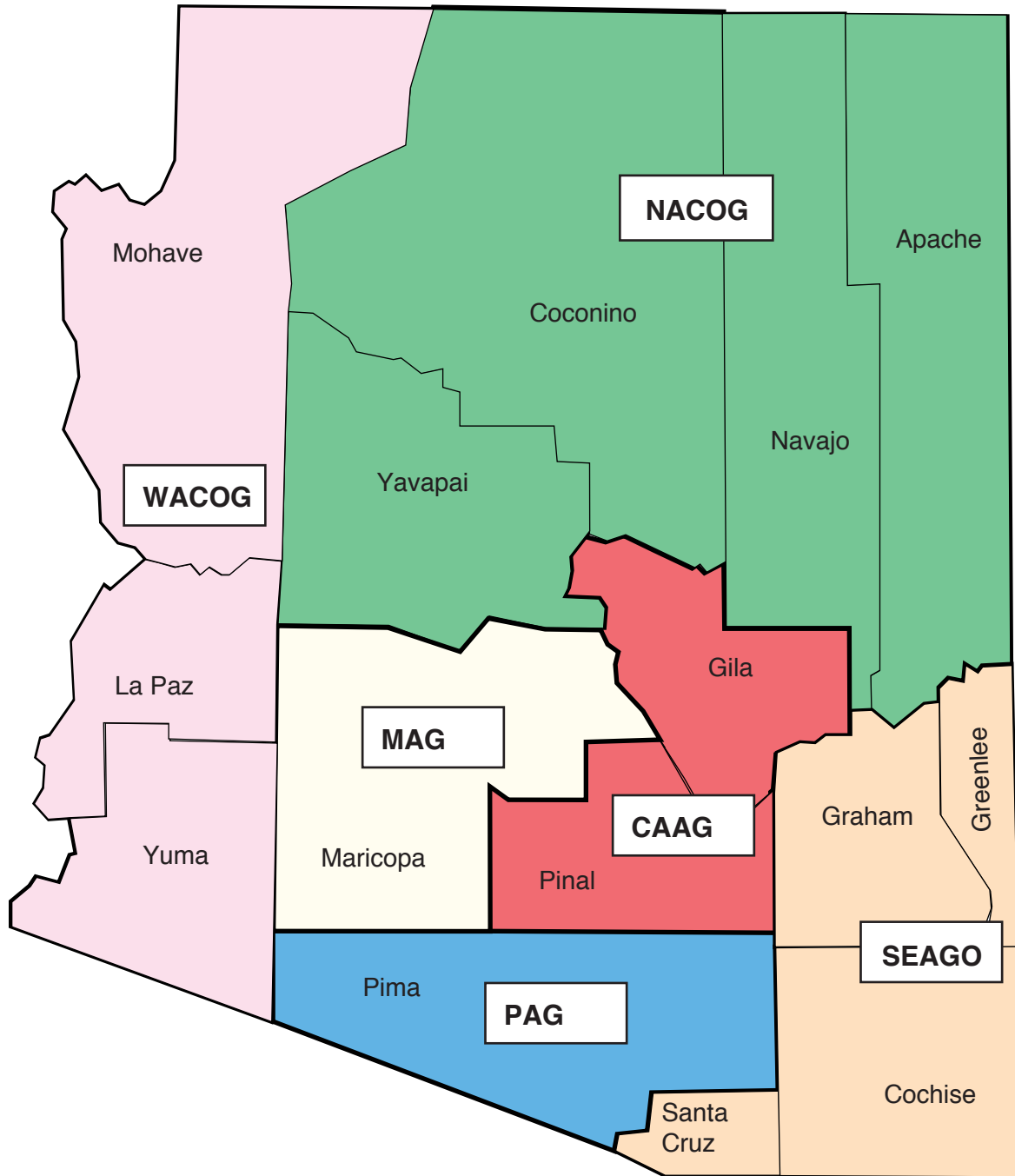
The intention in presenting the survey information by COG is to support the outdoor recreation planning strategies of each area, and to allow greater efficiency in tying together quality of life, economic development, and protection of the natural systems upon which they all depend.

Agency Jurisdictions

At the same time, it is important to recognize that the local and state planning districts are not the only regional groupings for planning purposes. The boundaries of other Arizona state agencies (e.g., Transportation Department, Department of Environmental Quality, Game and Fish Department, Department of Water Resources, State Land Department, State Parks) and federal agencies (e.g., Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, National Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense), as well as the many tribal governments and lands, are often quite different. In fact, there appears to be no unifying set of boundaries that relates to all of the concerns considered in a SCORP.

Regional Context

Arizona's physical, social, and economic diversity is illustrated in the often marked regional differences in the state. The regions are characterized by varying degrees of environmental stewardship, population change, economic development needs, socio-economic issues, and cultural composition. These factors significantly influence the provision of outdoor recreation by federal, state, and local entities.

Figure 19. Arizona Councils of Governments and County Boundaries**Arizona's Six Councils of Governments**

- **CAAG:** Central Arizona Association of Governments (Gila, Pinal Counties)
- **MAG:** Maricopa Association of Governments (Maricopa County)
- **NACOG:** Northern Arizona Council of Governments (Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai Counties)
- **PAG:** Pima Association of Governments (Pima County)
- **SEAGO:** South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz Counties)
- **WACOG:** Western Arizona Council of Governments (La Paz, Mohave, Yuma Counties)

For local governments this is exemplified by the challenges associated with providing outdoor recreation. Urban dwellers are demanding more recreational opportunities located in closer proximity to their homes; and local municipalities experiencing growth are trying to balance the community's need for basic infrastructure with the desire for amenities such as parks.

Arizona experienced a population increase of 23% from 2000 to 2006. Several Arizona counties are growing at an amazing rate, especially Pinal County with a six year increase of 67% from 2000 to 2006 (Table 42). Arizona is projected to have a 192% change in population from 2000 to 2030, to 10.4 million and in 2050, to 12.8 million (Table 41, AZDES, 2007: www.workforce.az.gov/?PAGEID=3&SUBID=138).

Table 41. Arizona Population Projections: 2000 to 2050

Arizona Population Projections by Year	
2000	5,130,632
2010	6,999,810
2020	8,779,567
2030	10,347,543
2040	11,693,553
2050	12,830,829

Table 42. Arizona Population Growth by County—2000 to 2006

Population Rank	County	DES Estimate 7/1/06	Census 4/1/00	Number Change	% Change 2000 to 2006
	Arizona	6,305,210	5,130,632	1,174,578	22.9%
1	Maricopa County	3,792,675	3,072,149	720,526	23.5%
2	Pima County	981,280	843,746	137,534	16.3%
3	Pinal County	299,875	179,727	120,148	66.9%
4	Yavapai County	213,285	167,517	45,768	27.3%
5	Yuma County	198,320	160,026	43,288	27.9%
6	Mohave County	196,390	155,032	36,364	22.7%
7	Cochise County	135,150	117,755	17,395	14.8%
8	Coconino County	132,270	116,320	15,950	13.7%
9	Navajo County	113,470	97,470	16,000	16.4%
10	Apache County	74,515	69,423	5,092	7.3%
11	Gila County	56,800	51,335	5,465	10.6%
12	Santa Cruz County	45,245	38,381	6,864	17.9%
13	Graham County	36,380	33,489	2,891	8.6%
14	La Paz County	21,255	19,715	1,540	7.8%
15	Greenlee County	8,300	8,547	-247	-2.9%

Source: Population Statistics Unit, Arizona Department of Economic Security, 2007.

Economic development is often considered the means by which local communities can address the challenges of limited resources. A broader tax base enables a community to increase the money available for amenities but in some places successful economic development in one area has caused significant cultural and community disruption in other areas.

State and federal land managers must consider how to balance increasing numbers of users, user impacts, development pressures, and environmental needs in already compromised ecosystems, especially near more densely populated communities or in highly visited areas.

The demographic makeup within each COG varies considerably, challenging outdoor recreation planners and providers to offer the needed parks, recreation areas and programs within each region. Demographic specifics of age, ethnicity, households, income, education and other factors may play a role in determining a community's recreational needs.

Specifically, age distribution in a community can have a major influence on the recreation needs of its people. Regionally, Arizona is diverse, especially when looking at the percentage of children and senior citizens in a community (Table 43).

Table 43. Percent of Arizona's County Population Breakout by Age—2000

By County	Ages 0-14	Ages 15-24	Ages 25-44	Ages 45-64	Ages 65 +
CAAG					
Gila County	20.7	10.8	22.3	26.4	19.8
Pinal County	20.6	14.9	28.4	21.9	14.2
MAG					
Maricopa County	22.9	14.3	31.4	19.8	11.7
NACOG					
Apache County	31.9	16.1	25.1	18.7	8.3
Coconino County	23.7	19.5	29.2	20.7	7
Navajo County	29.2	15	25.3	20.4	10
Yavapai County	17.2	11	22.4	27.4	22
PAG					
Pima County	20.6	14.9	28.4	21.9	14.2
SEAGO					
Cochise County	21.7	13.9	26	23.7	14.7
Graham County	24.8	17.3	27.3	18.7	11.9
Greenlee County	25.9	13.4	28.2	22.8	9.9
Santa Cruz County	28.2	13.6	26.8	20.8	10.7
WACOG					
La Paz County	17	10.3	20.4	26.6	25.8
Mohave County	19.3	10.3	23.2	26.7	20.5
Yuma County	24.4	14.5	25.6	18.9	16.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, April 1, 2000 Census

Apache, Navajo, and Santa Cruz Counties have the highest percentages of children 14 years and under. La Paz, Mohave, Gila and Yavapai Counties have the highest percentages of people 65 years and up. Within individual COGs, each county may have substantially different demographic compositions. Looking at NACOG for example: 32% of Apache County's population is 14 years old or less and 8% is 65 years and older, while 17% of Yavapai County's population is less than 14 years old or less and 22% is 65 years or older.

Table 44. Census 2000 Percentages of Arizona Population by Race

By County	Hispanic/ Latino	White	Black/ African American	American Indian	Asian	Pacific Islander	Other Race
ARIZONA	25.3%	63.8%	2.9%	4.5%	1.7%	0.1%	0.1%
CAAG							
Gila County	16.6%	68.9%	0.3%	12.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%
Pinal County	29.9%	58.8%	2.6%	6.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
MAG							
Maricopa County	24.8%	66.2%	3.5%	1.5%	2.1%	0.1%	0.1%
NACOG							
Apache County	4.5%	17.7%	0.2%	76.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Coconino County	10.9%	57.6%	1.0%	28.0%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%
Navajo County	8.2%	42.3%	0.8%	47.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Yavapai County	9.8%	86.6%	0.4%	1.4%	0.5%	0.1%	0.1%
PAG							
Pima County	29.3%	61.5%	2.9%	2.6%	2.0%	0.1%	0.1%
SEAGO							
Cochise County	30.7%	60.1%	4.3%	0.8%	1.6%	0.2%	0.2%
Graham County	27.0%	55.2%	1.8%	14.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
Greenlee County	43.1%	53.9%	0.4%	1.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
Santa Cruz County	80.8%	17.8%	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.1%
WACOG							
La Paz County	22.4%	63.8%	0.8%	10.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%
Mohave County	11.1%	84.0%	0.5%	2.1%	0.7%	0.1%	0.1%
Yuma County	50.5%	44.3%	2.0%	1.1%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

Different ethnicities and cultures may want different recreation settings and opportunities. Recreation planners should know their community's demographics and solicit feedback on individual needs and desires regarding recreation facilities and opportunities. All percentages in the last six columns listed in the table above refer to the indicated race alone not including Hispanic or Latino (Table 44).

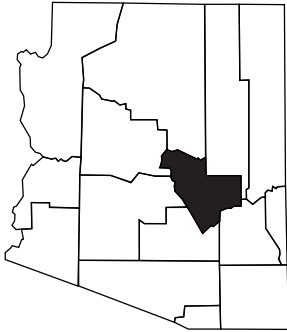
Looking at the survey data only by COG will not be sufficient for all recreation planning needs. Playgrounds and neighborhood tot lots may be needed in one town, while opportunities for walking and nature study may be in demand in other towns. The type of recreation facilities needed may differ greatly between counties and between towns within a county. Some towns are relatively young and are developing all new recreation facilities, others are well-established and mainly need to maintain or renovate existing facilities.

Council of Governments Profiles

The following profiles provide some basic information about Arizona's six COGs and 15 counties (AZ Dept. of Commerce, 2005). The demographics and land ownership information (range in percentages of federal versus private land) may explain and help plan for regional differences in recreation needs.

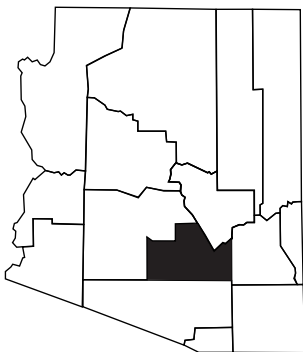
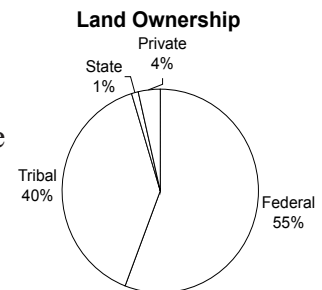
Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG)

CAAG represents local governments within two counties: Gila and Pinal. CAAG comprises 8.9% of the State's acreage and 4.9% (301,105) of the State's population.



Gila County encompasses 4,791 square miles (4.2% of the state's land base), of which 28 square miles are water. The population in 2000 was 51,335 and in 2005 was 54,445, a 6.1% change. There were 20,140 households out of which 26.3% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 42 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$30,917. The county seat is Globe; other towns include Payson, Miami, Hayden, Strawberry, Tonto Basin, Winkelman, Young and San Carlos. The county includes part of the San Carlos and Fort Apache Indian Reservations.

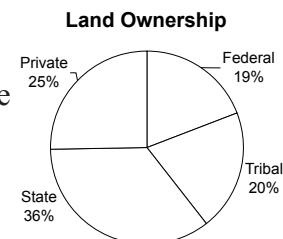
The northern portion is characterized by the densely forested Mogollon Rim with elevations up to 7,940 feet and the start of many rivers and streams. The Salt River and numerous perennial tributaries flow southwest through the landscape. The southern area is primarily desert hills (2,000 feet elevation) and wooded mountain ranges. The county supports ranching, copper and silver mining, as well as tourism and recreation. The county has several notable attractions, including the Salt River Canyon, Tonto National Monument, Besh-Ba-Gowah Archaeological Park, the Mogollon Rim, Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, Tonto Creek Fish Hatchery, Fort Apache Historic Park, Coolidge Dam and San Carlos Lake, Roosevelt Dam and Lake. There are opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, boating, whitewater rafting, off-road driving, and exploring historic sites.



Pinal County encompasses 5,374 square miles (4.7% of the state's land base), of which 4.5 square miles are water. The population in 2000 was 179,727 and in 2005 was 246,660, a 37.2% change. There were 61,364 households out of which 30% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 37 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$35,856. The county seat is Florence; other towns include Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Coolidge, Eloy, Kearny, Oracle, Mammoth, Queen Creek, Sacaton, Superior, San Manuel, and Chuichu. Three Indian Communities are located in Pinal: Ak-Chin, Gila River and part of the Tohono O'Odham Indian Reservation.

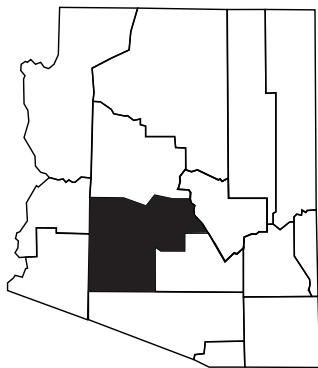
The eastern portion is characterized by copper mining and mountains with elevations up to 7,300 feet. The western area is primarily low desert valleys and irrigated agriculture, but is

experiencing rapid population growth with resultant housing and commercial developments. The county has several notable attractions, including Casa Grande National Monument, Superstition Mountains, Aravaipa Canyon, Picacho Peak State Park, Picacho Reservoir, McFarland State Historic Park, Lost Dutchman State Park, Oracle State Park, Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum, the Biosphere II, Skydive Arizona (world's largest skydiving drop zone), and the Florence Historic District. Recreational opportunities include hiking, biking and horseback riding, off-highway vehicle routes and rock crawling areas, hunting, and exploring historic sites.



Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG)

MAG represents local governments within one county, Maricopa County, and is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Phoenix area. MAG comprises 8% of the State's acreage and 60.4% (3,648,545) of the State's population. Maricopa County ranks fourth in the nation based on population.

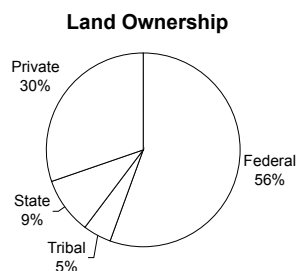


Maricopa County encompasses 9,222 square miles (8% of the state's land base), of which 21 square miles are water. The population in 2000 was 3,072,149 and in 2005 was 3,648,545, a 18.8% change. There were 1,132,886 households out of which 33% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 33 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$45,358. More than half (60%) of the state's population resides in Maricopa County, which includes Phoenix (the state's capital and county seat), and other cities including Avondale, Buckeye, Cave Creek, Mesa, Glendale, Scottsdale, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Peoria, Sun City, Fountain Hills, Wickenburg, and Gila Bend.

Portions of five Indian Communities are also within county boundaries; Gila Bend, Tohono O'Odham, Fort McDowell, Salt River Pima Maricopa, and Gila River Indian Communities.

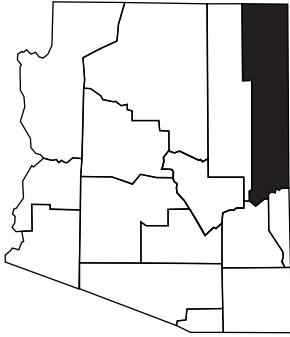
This metropolitan area is the state's major center of political and economic activity. The county is home to a growing high-tech industry; manufacturing and agricultural industries; fifteen institutions of higher learning; and the center for most state and federal government offices. The north and eastern portions are characterized by heavy urban development dotted with desert hills, many dedicated as nature preserves. The extreme eastern part rises in elevation to 7,657 feet at Four Peaks. The southwestern area is primarily low desert valleys and irrigated agriculture, but future growth plans are being developed for much of the county.

The county has several notable attractions, including Pueblo Grande Museum, Phoenix Mountain Preserves, Phoenix Zoo, Desert Botanical Garden, Tempe Town Lake, Rio Salado, Tres Rios, large county parks such as Lake Pleasant, Estrella Mountain and White Tanks, Bartlett and Horseshoe Lakes on the Verde River, Apache, Canyon and Saguaro Lakes on the Salt River, several large city sports arenas, sports teams and special events, numerous arts and cultural centers, and Sky Harbor International Airport (fifth busiest in the world). The county offers lots of desert trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding as well as off-highway vehicle routes.



Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG)

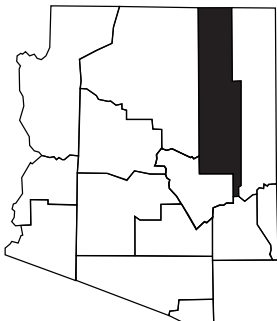
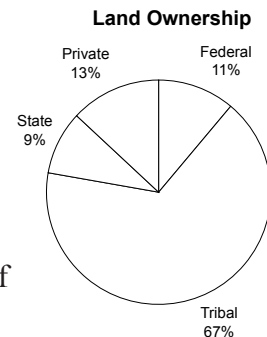
NACOG represents local governments within four counties: Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai. The Flagstaff MPO serves the greater Flagstaff area. The Prescott/Prescott Valley area now meets the required population for an MPO. NACOG comprises 41.9% of the State's acreage and 8.6% (519,395) of the State's population.



Apache County encompasses 11,218 square miles or 9.84% of the state's land base; 14 square miles are water. The Navajo and Fort Apache Indian Reservations comprise 66% of the county; 58% of the population speak Navajo. The population in 2000 was 69,423 and in 2005 was 73,775, a 6.3% change. There were 19,971 households out of which 43.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 27 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$23,344. The county seat is St. Johns; southern towns include Eagar, Springerville, Greer, McNary, Alpine, and northern towns include Ganado, Fort Defiance, Chinle, Many Farms, and

Window Rock on the Navajo Reservation. Mining, ranching and timber production as well as tourism and recreation are staple industries.

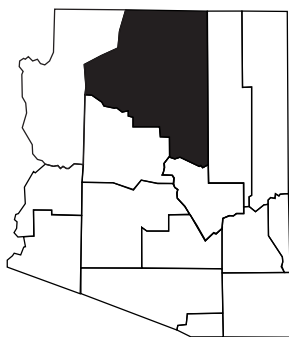
The southern portion is characterized by green valleys and the forested White Mountains which has thirteen peaks with elevations over 10,000 feet; Mt. Baldy is 11,420 feet. The northern area is primarily dry, colorful plateaus with several small mountain ranges along the eastern border with New Mexico. The county has several notable attractions, including the Petrified Forest National Park, Painted Desert, Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Four Corners Monument, Lyman Lake State Park, Casa Malpais Archaeological Site, and Sunrise Ski Resort. There are numerous high elevation lakes and perennial rivers providing boating and fishing opportunities, excellent hunting and cross-country skiing and lots of forest trails and campgrounds. Numerous ATV and snowmobile routes are located in the southern part.



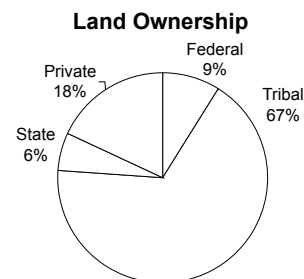
Navajo County encompasses 9,959 square miles or 8.7% of the state's land base; 6 square miles are water. The Hopi, Navajo and Fort Apache Indian Reservations comprise nearly 55% of the county. The population in 2000 was 97,470 and in 2005 was 109,985, a 12.8% change. There were 30,043 households out of which 40% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 30 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$28,569. The county seat is Holbrook; southern towns include Winslow, Heber, Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, Snowflake, Taylor and Whiteriver, and northern towns

include Kayenta and Shonto on the Navajo Reservation and Old Oraibi, Second Mesa and Keams Canyon on the Hopi Reservation. Mining, timber production and ranching as well as tourism are staple industries.

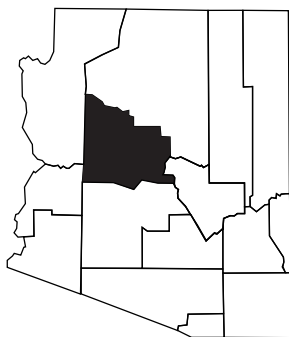
The southern portion of Navajo County is characterized by the forested Mogollon Rim and rugged mountains with elevations over 8,000 feet. The northern area is arid and desert-like with tall mesas and plateaus. The county has several notable attractions, including Monument Valley, Navajo Tribal Park, Navajo National Monument, Betatakin Ruin, Homolovi Ruins State Parks, Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area, Black Mesa, and Black Canyon Lake.



Coconino County encompasses 18,661 square miles or 16.36% of the state's land base; 44 square miles are water. Five Indian Reservations comprise nearly 46% of the county. The population in 2000 was 116,320 and in 2005 was 130,530, a 12.2% change. There were 40,448 households out of which 35% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 30 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$38,256. The county seat is Flagstaff; towns include Williams, Sedona, Kachina Village, Page, Fredonia, and Tuba City and Leupp on the Navajo Reservation. Timber production and ranching as well as tourism and recreation are staple industries.

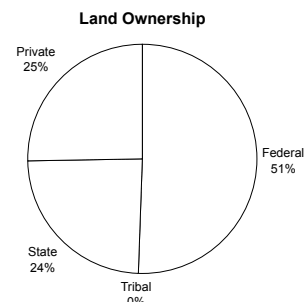
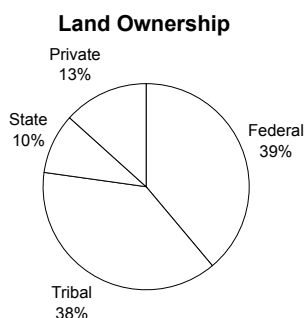


The county is characterized by rugged mountains, deep canyons and thick pine forests. The San Francisco Peaks contain the state's highest mountain, Humphrey's Peak at an elevation of 12,633 feet; there are six peaks over 11,000 feet. The county has several notable attractions, including Grand Canyon National Park, Lake Powell/Glen Canyon Dam, Lee's Ferry, Sunset Crater National Monument, Wupatki National Monument, Walnut Canyon National Monument, Snow Bowl Ski Area, Northern Arizona University, Oak Creek Canyon, Riordan Mansion State Park, Slide Rock State Park. There are numerous forested lakes and streams. The county offers a range of recreational opportunities such as trails of all types and experiences, boating, skiing, snowplay, hunting, fishing, camping and exploring back roads.



Yavapai County encompasses 8,125 square miles or 7% of the state's land base; 4 square miles are water. The population in 2000 was 167,517 and in 2005 was 205,105, a 22.4% change. There were 70,171 households out of which 23.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 44 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$34,901. The county seat is Prescott; towns include Ashfork, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Jerome, Dewey-Humboldt, Bagdad, Yarnell,

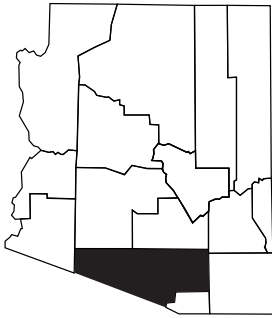
Black Canyon City, and Crown King. The Yavapai Indian Reservation is in the county but occupies only a small portion of the land base. Mining, ranching as well as tourism and recreation are staple industries. The county is characterized by scenic pine forests, rugged mountains over 7,900 feet, grassy valleys and high desert to the south. The county has



several notable attractions, including Oak Creek, Red Rock country around Sedona, Red Rock State Park, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Ft. Verde State Historic Park, Jerome State Historic Park, Montezuma Castle National Monument, Tuzigoot National Monument, Lynx Lake, Granite Dells, Prescott College, historic Prescott as one of the territorial capitals, Sharlot Hall Museum, Arcosanti, and the artisan community of Jerome.

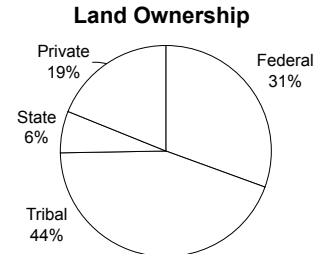
Pima Association of Governments (PAG)

PAG represents local governments within one county, Pima County, and is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the greater Tucson area. PAG comprises 8% of the State's acreage and 15.8% (957,635) of the State's population.



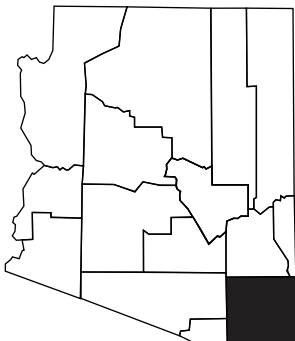
Pima County encompasses 9,184 square miles or 8% of the state's land base; 3 square miles are water. Three Indian Reservations comprise 42% of the county, Tohono O'odham, San Xavier, and Pasqua Yaqui. The population in 2000 was 843,746 and in 2005 was 957,635, a 13.5% change. There were 332,350 households out of which 29% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 36 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$36,758. The elevation ranges from 1,200 feet to the 9,453 feet peak

of Mount Wrightson. The county seat is Tucson, towns include Oro Valley, Catalina, Green Valley, Sahuarita, South Tucson, Marana, Ajo, and Sells on the Tohono O'odham Reservation. Mining, ranching, manufacturing, aerospace industry, as well as tourism and recreation are staple industries. The county is characterized by Sonoran Desert dotted with rugged mountains. Notable attractions include San Xavier del Bac Mission, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, University of Arizona, Saguaro National Park, Organ Pipe National Monument, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, Ironwood Forest National Monument, Catalina State Park, Mount Lemmon Ski Area, and several large county parks and natural areas. Recreation opportunities run the gamut, from hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle activities, hunting, rock climbing, caving, cross country skiing, and camping.



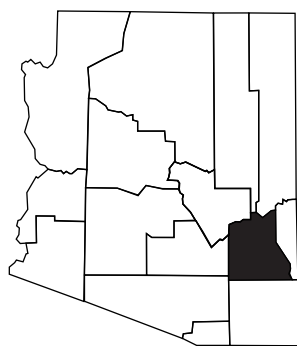
South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO)

SEAGO represents local governments within four counties: Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz. SEAGO comprises 12.3% of the State's acreage and 3.6% (219,600) of the State's population.



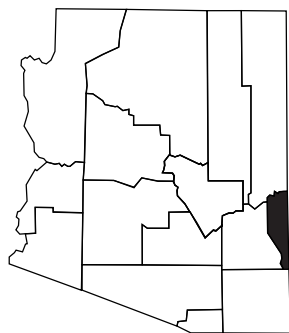
Cochise County encompasses 6,219 square miles or 5.54% of the state's land base; 49 square miles are water. Cochise is one of three counties with no Indian reservation. The population in 2000 was 843,746 and in 2005 was 957,635, a 13.5% change. There were 43,893 households out of which 32% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 37 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$32,105. The elevation ranges from 1,200 feet to the 9,796 feet peak in the Chiricahua Mountains.

The county seat is Bisbee; towns include Douglas, Benson, Willcox, Tombstone, Sierra Vista, and Huachuca City. Mining, ranching, specialty crops, manufacturing, as well as tourism are staple industries. The county is characterized by Chihuahuan Desert dotted with rugged forested mountains, called “sky islands.” Cochise County has several notable attractions, including Kartchner Caverns State Park, Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Coronado National Memorial, Chiricahua National Monument, San Pedro River, Mammoth-Lehner Kill Site, Willcox Playa, Ramsey Canyon, Cave Creek/Portal, San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, and the artisan community of Bisbee. Recreation opportunities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle activities, hunting, bird watching, and camping.



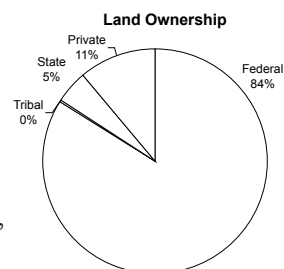
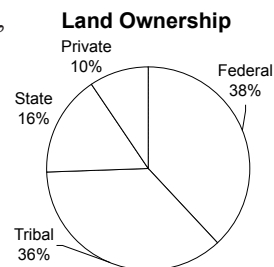
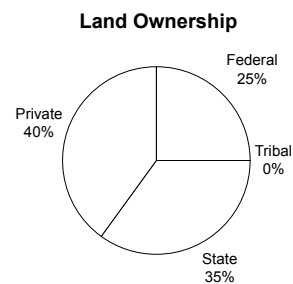
Graham County encompasses 4,630 square miles (4% of the state’s land base), of which 12 square miles are water. The San Carlos Indian Reservation comprises 36% of the county. The population in 2000 was 33,489 and in 2005 was 35,455, a 5.9% change. There were 10,116 households out of which 39% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 31 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$29,668. The highest elevation point is 10,516 feet at Mount Graham. The county seat is Safford; towns include Pima, Thatcher, and Fort Thomas. Mining,

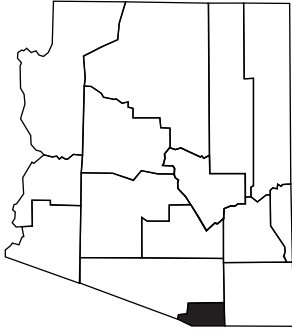
ranching and farming are staple industries. The county is characterized by broad valleys with rugged mountains. The county has several attractions, including part of San Carlos Lake, Gila River, Gila Box, Roper Lake State Park, Discovery Center and Mount Graham. Recreation opportunities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle activities, hunting, fishing, camping and numerous hot springs.



Greenlee County encompasses 1,848 square miles or 1.6% of the state’s land base; one square mile is water. Greenlee is one of three counties with no Indian reservation. The population in 2000 was 8,547 and in 2005 was 8,300, a -2.9% change. There were 3,117 households out of which 39% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 34 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$39,384. It ranges in elevation from 3,466 feet at Clifton to 9,092 feet at Hannagan Meadow. The county seat is Clifton; towns include Morenci and Duncan. Copper mining, ranching and agriculture are staple industries. The

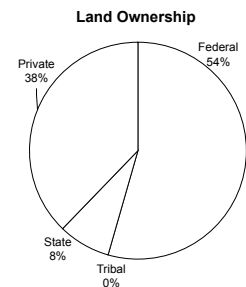
county is characterized in the north by high elevation forests, mountain ranges, and river valleys and in the south by desert terrain. The county has several attractions, including the winding Coronado Trail, Hannagan Meadow, Blue Range Primitive Area, and old mining towns. The county is a popular region for hiking, backpacking, stream fishing, camping, hunting, off-highway vehicle driving, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.





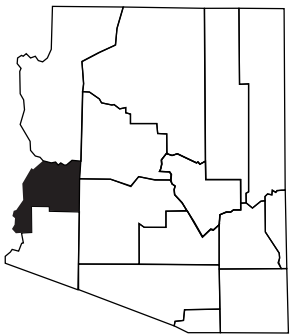
Santa Cruz County encompasses 1,238 square miles or 0.75% of the state's land base. Santa Cruz is one of three counties with no Indian reservation. The population in 2000 was 38,381 and in 2005 was 44,055, a 14.8% change. There were 11,809 households out of which 45.6% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 32 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$29,710. The county seat is Nogales; towns include Rio Rico, Patagonia, Tubac, Amado, Sonoita and Elgin. Mining, ranching, agriculture, and tourism are staple industries.

The county is characterized by grassy valleys and forested mountains (Mount Hopkins at 8,585 feet). The county has several notable attractions, including the artisan community of Tubac, Santa Cruz River, Tumacacori National Monument, Tubac Presidio State Historic Park, Patagonia Lake State Park, Sonoita Creek State Natural Area, Peña Blanca Lake, Parker Canyon Lake, Anza National Historic Trail, historic towns, and gateway to Sonora, Mexico. Recreation opportunities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle activities, fishing, hunting, bird watching, camping and exploring old mining towns.



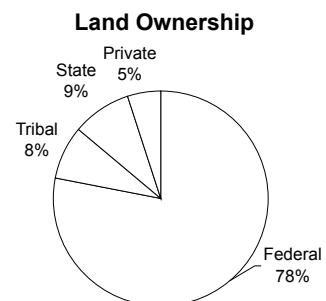
Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG)

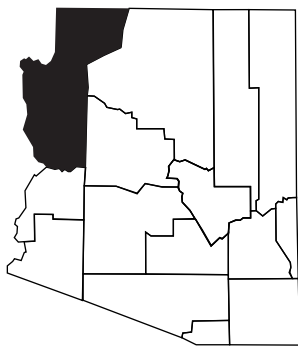
WACOG represents local governments within three counties: La Paz, Mohave and Yuma. The Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serves the Yuma urbanized area. The Lake Havasu City area now meets the required population for an MPO. WACOG comprises 20.6% of the State's acreage and 6.6% (398,705) of the State's population.



La Paz County encompasses 4,518 square miles (3.96% of the state's land base), of which 13/30 square miles are water. The Colorado River Indian Tribe owns 8% of the land. The population in 2000 was 19,715 and in 2005 was 21,190, a 7.5% change. There were 8,362 households out of which 21% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 47 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$25,839. The county seat is Parker; towns include Bouse, Cibola, Ehrenberg, Quartzite and Salome/Wenden. Mining, agriculture, and tourism are staple industries.

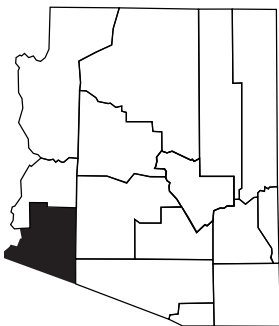
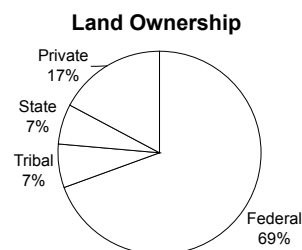
The county is characterized by broad desert valleys and rugged desert mountains such as Harquahala Peak at 5,681 feet. The Colorado River forms the western boundary called the Parker Strip providing a variety of water-based recreation opportunities. The county has several notable attractions, including Alamo Lake State Park, Buckskin Mountain State Park, several national wildlife refuges, and the Yuma Proving Grounds. Hunting, fishing, rockhounding, camping, exploring old mining towns and off-highway vehicle driving are popular recreation activities.





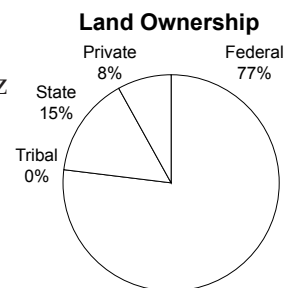
Mohave County encompasses 13,470 square miles (11.8% of the state's land base), of which 158 square miles are water. The Fort Mojave, Hualapai and Kaibab Indian Reservations comprise 7% of the land. The population in 2000 was 155,032 and in 2005 was 188,035, a 21.3% change. There were 62,809 households out of which 25% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 43 years. The median income for a household was \$31,521. The county seat is Kingman; towns include Bullhead City, Colorado City, Lake Havasu City, Golden Valley, Dolan Springs, Peach Springs, Littlefield and Wikieup. Mining, ranching, and tourism are staple industries.

The county is characterized by the Mohave Desert with low hills and forested mountain ranges such as Hualapai Peak at 8,417 feet. Much of the county's western border is the Colorado River and it has 1,000 miles of shoreline. The county has several notable attractions, including a long stretch of historic Route 66, Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Lake Havasu, several state and county parks, Pipe Springs National Monument, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, Burro Creek and old mining towns. Recreation opportunities include hiking, rockhounding, off-highway vehicle activities, boating, fishing, hunting and camping.



Yuma County encompasses 5,519 square miles or 4.8% of the state's land base. The Cocopah and Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Tribes are in the county but occupy only a small portion of the land base. Much of the land is used as military testing sites. The population in 2000 was 160,026 and in 2005 was 189,480, a 18.4% change. More than 85,000 winter visitors make Yuma their winter residence. There were 26,649 households out of which 38.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them. The median age was 31 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$35,374. The county seat is Yuma; towns include San Luis, Somerton, and Wellton. Agriculture and tourism are staple industries.

The county is characterized by rugged desert hills, broad sandy valleys, and irrigated cropland. The highest peak is Smith Peak at 5,242 feet. Yuma is one of the hottest and most arid counties in the nation, and is purported to be the sunniest place on earth with 90% sunshine, according to the Guinness Book of World records. The county has several notable attractions, including historic trails and river crossings, Yuma Territorial Prison State Park, Yuma Quartermaster Depot State Historic Park, Martinez Lake, Mittry Lake, and Kofa and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife refuges. Recreation opportunities include hiking, off-highway vehicle activities, hunting, fishing, boating and camping. The Algodones Dunes are just across the California border attracting tens of thousands of sand dune enthusiasts every year.





Chapter 6

2008 SCORP SURVEY FINDINGS

Arizonans' Responses Regarding Outdoor Recreation Participation, Future Demand and Issues

To gather current information on outdoor recreation trends and issues, Arizona State Parks partnered with Arizona State University (ASU), School of Community Resources and Development, to conduct two surveys in 2006. The first was an online survey targeting outdoor recreation providers such as local parks and recreation departments, state parks, state wildlife and land management departments, federal land managing agencies (National Forests, Parks, Wildlife Refuges and Bureau of Land Management), and tribal governments. The second was a telephone survey targeting Arizona residents.

The web-based survey was made available to more than 230 outdoor recreation providers in Arizona from early May through July. An initial letter of invite to participate in the survey was sent to all providers, followed by an email with instructions on how to access the online survey. In addition, several follow-up email reminders were sent to encourage participation. ASU received 106 completed surveys for a response rate of 49%. This survey was conducted to determine, from the resource managers' perspective, the current outdoor recreation opportunities, issues, concerns and priorities.

The telephone survey was conducted in October 2006 and utilized a random digit-dialed phone methodology targeting Arizona households. Surveys were conducted in English and Spanish. The results include findings from 1,238 completed phone surveys; response rate was 33.5%. The margin of error was $\pm 2\%$. The telephone survey covers the participation and future needs of Arizonans in 22 outdoor recreation activities, funding priorities, issues and satisfaction, and benefits the public perceives from outdoor recreation. These results are further broken down and examined by the six Council of Governments (COG) regions, the community type (city, town, rural), ethnicity, income, and education of the respondents.

See Chapter 5 (pg 117) for map of COG boundaries. Also included in this report are related results from several other Arizona State Parks' studies.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following demographic information from both surveys may be of use to recreation planners and providers in determining the need for various types of parks, facilities and programs.

Public Survey

Respondents from the public survey were at least 18 years of age, residing in cities, towns or rural areas throughout Arizona. In addition, respondents were geographically separated into one of six regional Council of Governments (COG) based on respondents' place of residence. In order to obtain a sufficient sample size for each Council of Governments (COG) region, some COG regions with low population were over sampled (based on population).

Table 45. Arizona Public Survey Respondents by Region/Council of Governments

Region/COG (counties)	Frequency (number of respondents)	Percent of respondents
CAAG (Gila, Pinal)	106	8.6%
MAG (Maricopa)	355	28.7%
NACOG (Apache, Coconino, Navajo, Yavapai)	200	16.2%
PAG (Pima)	251	20.2%
SEAGO (Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz)	120	9.7%
WACOG (La Paz, Mohave, Yuma)	206	16.6%
statewide	1238	100%

Forty percent of respondents lived in a large city with a population over 100,000, 24% lived in a city with a population under 100,000, 19% lived in a town and 17% lived in a rural area.

The mean age of respondents was 50 years, the mean number of years lived in Arizona was 24 years. More women answered the survey than men (62% to 38%). The average household size was 2.8 people, Arizona's average is 2.75. The majority of households (61%) did not have any children under 18 years of age living at home, 22% had at least one child under 6 years, 39% had at least one child between 6 and 18 years. More than 50% of respondents were employed full-time, 24% were retired. Ninety percent of respondents finished high school or higher, 50% earned between \$25,000 and \$75,000 a year.

Ninety-three percent said they were white/Caucasian compared with Arizona's average of 76%. Twenty-one percent said they were of Hispanic background, compared with Arizona's average of 29% (the national average is 12%). Other ethnic percentages were more in line with Arizona's averages: Black/African American survey respondents comprised 2.1% compared to Arizona's 3.1%; Asian was 1.4% compared to 2.2%; and American Indian was 3.0% compared to 4.7%.

Eleven percent of respondents said they had a disability, another 7.8% said that someone in their household had a disability. By comparison, 14.9% of Arizonans report they have a disability. In the Arizona State Parks' 2003 Consumer Marketing Survey, 11% of respondents said they or someone in their household had a disability. Disabilities could include hearing or visual loss,

speech, mobility or mental impairments, or chemical sensitivity. The most common type of disability mentioned is mobility.

Providers Survey

Respondents from the outdoor recreation providers survey were professionals of various city, town, county and state parks and recreation departments (or those departments with recreation responsibilities), Arizona Game and Fish and State Land Departments, tribal governments, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Wildlife Refuges, and National Forests in Arizona. Only two tribes responded, which is an insufficient sample size to reflect Arizona's 21 tribal governments, so these two responses were not included in the results offered in this report.

Respondent answers can be separated by type of agency, region or Council of Governments (as in the public survey), type of community served and years of experience with current agency. The usual demographic questions did not seem to apply to the provider survey since respondents were asked to respond as a representative for their agency, not as an individual recreationist.

Table 46. Type of Agency Represented by Providers

Agency type	Frequency	Percent
Federal	43	41%
State	25	23.8%
County	7	6.7%
Town/City	28	26.7%
Tribal	2	1.9%
Total	105	100%

All regions of the state are well represented by the provider respondents (Table 47). Some respondents work for the main office of an agency that manages lands throughout Arizona such as the State Land Department Phoenix office, hence the *statewide* category.

Table 47. Provider Location/Region by Council of Governments

Region	Frequency	Percent
CAAG	10	9.5%
MAG	17	16.2%
NACOG	25	23.8%
PAG	7	6.7%
SEAGO	16	14.3%
WACOG	15	14.3%
Statewide	15	14.3%

Respondents were asked to describe the *primary* community their organization serves. All types of communities are well represented by the respondents (Table 48). Some state and federal respondents work in offices or departments that have management jurisdiction statewide such as the State BLM Office, while other provider respondents work in offices that have smaller regional jurisdictions, such as the Safford BLM Field Office.

Table 48. Primary Community Type Served by Provider Jurisdiction

Community type	Frequency	Percent
Large City >100,000	22	24.2%
City <100,000	16	17.6%
Town	21	23.1%
Rural Area	20	22%
Statewide	12	13.2%
Total	91	100%

Interesting to note that the majority of the provider survey respondents (52.8%) have worked for their current agency for sixteen years or more, indicating a considerable familiarity with both the subject of outdoor recreation and with the region (Table 49).

Table 49. Provider Years of Experience with Current Agency

Years of experience	Frequency	Percent
0-5	27	25.5%
6-10	16	15.1%
11-15	7	6.6%
16-20	24	22.6%
21-25	12	11.3%
26+	20	18.9%

INTEREST IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

When asked how interested they were in outdoor recreation activities, the mean level of interest of public respondents statewide was 3.93 (1 to 5 scale of *not at all*, 7%; to *very interested*, 45%).

Table 50. Arizonans' Overall Interest in Outdoor Recreation (by Council of Governments)

COG	Not at all interested	Scale				Very interested	Mean
	1	2	3	4	5		
CAAG	4.7%	6.6%	16%	21.7%	50.9%		4.08
MAG	7.9%	4.2%	20.8%	27.9%	39.2%		3.86
NACOG	4.5%	5%	17.5%	23.5%	49.5%		4.09
PAG	6.8%	6%	18.7%	24.3%	44.2%		3.93
SEAGO	8.3%	6.7%	15%	21.7%	48.3%		3.95
WACOG	10.8%	5.4%	20.1%	17.6%	46.1%		3.83
statewide	7.4%	5.3%	18.8%	23.6%	44.9%		3.93

In Arizona State Parks' 2003 Consumer Marketing Survey, Arizona residents were asked how interested they were in various types of parks, recreation areas and historic sites in Arizona (Table 51). Arizonans rated all types of sites fairly high, however, the two types that tied for first place were *natural areas and wildlife preserves* and *rivers and streams*. Second place were *lakes and reservoirs* and *archaeological ruins*.

This preference for natural features validates the ongoing high rating of the top two recreation settings described later. Residents were also asked how interested they were in visiting parks, recreation areas, natural areas and historic sites managed by various agencies in Arizona (Table 52). Interest mean values are scores on a scale ranging from 1- *Not at all interested* to 5- *Extremely interested*.

Table 51. Interest in Parks, Recreation Areas, Natural Areas and Historic Sites in Arizona

Type of Site	Interest	
	Frequency	Mean
Natural area/wildlife preserve	423	4.09
River/stream	428	4.07
Lake/reservoir	430	3.82
Archaeological ruin	424	3.79
Native American cultural site	425	3.5
Botanical garden	421	3.44
Wilderness/roadless area	420	3.35
Historic pioneer site	422	3.35
Developed recreation area	422	3.12

Table 52. Interest in Visiting Parks, Recreation Areas, Natural Areas and Historic Sites Managed by Various Agencies in Arizona

Managing Agency of Sites	Interest in visiting	
	Frequency	Mean
National Park Service	391	4.09
U.S. Forest Service	394	4.05
Arizona State Parks	400	4.03
Arizona Game and Fish	358	3.68
Your county parks department	385	3.61
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	354	3.6
Your local town/city parks department	390	3.54
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	350	3.35
Non-profit organization/land trust	333	3.31
Tribal government	362	2.77

RECREATION SETTINGS

When asked the importance of different recreation settings (on a scale of 1 *not important* to 5 *extremely important*), 2008 SCORP survey respondents ranked all settings very high, however, the responses were noticeably higher in support of two settings: *large nature-oriented parks* (4.27), and *open spaces in a natural setting* (4.25), Table 53.

The 2003 SCORP asked similar questions regarding these four recreation settings, however, respondents had to choose one type of park setting instead of ranking. Forty-three percent of Arizona households said they prefer to see more large nature-oriented parks, 23% prefer open space, 20% prefer small neighborhood parks, and 14% prefer large multi-use parks with lots of recreation facilities. The 2008 SCORP survey indicates that while the public still favors the nature-oriented parks, open space in natural settings have increased in importance.

In Arizona State Parks' 2003 Consumer Marketing Survey (CMS), Arizona residents rated the importance of these four recreation settings similarly (Table 53).

Table 53. Importance of Recreation Settings

Recreation Setting	Not Important	←————→				Extremely Important	2003 CMS Mean	2008 SCORP Mean
	1	2	3	4	5			
Large, nature-oriented parks with few buildings primarily used for hiking, picnicking or camping	2.7%	3.3%	13.8%	24.5%	55.6%		3.97	4.27
Open spaces in natural settings with very little development	2.1%	6.1%	13.4%	21.6%	56.8%		4.02	4.25
Large, developed parks with many facilities and uses	3.9%	7.7%	25.8%	22.7%	39.8%		2.92	3.87
Small neighborhood parks that have only a few facilities	7.9%	10.5%	27.1%	21.6%	32.9%		3.12	3.61

To varying degrees, the same findings are evident across all six COG regions. Regarding the importance of open spaces in natural settings where there is very little development, the mean value for NACOG was the highest at 4.45, thus indicating a higher degree of importance for this setting type in northern Arizona; CAAG also rated open space higher than other recreation settings (Table 54).


Table 54. Importance of Recreation Settings by COG

Recreation Setting	CAAG	MAG	NACOG	PAG	SEAGO	WACOG
Large, nature-oriented parks with few buildings primarily used for hiking, picnicking or camping	4.33	4.27	4.23	4.32	4.33	4.19
Open spaces in natural settings with very little development	4.4	4.18	4.45	4.27	4.22	4.07
Large, developed parks with many facilities and uses	3.87	4.02	3.59	3.8	3.9	3.96
Small neighborhood parks that have only a few facilities	3.56	3.63	3.57	3.62	3.61	3.64

Understanding the proximity that Arizona residents live in relation to parks is an important aspect of recreation planning. Several questions were asked related to how close people live to parks and recreation facilities. Respondents were told over the telephone that “park” refers to any park, ranging from neighborhood parks to national parks. This was necessary due to the rural areas surveyed. The majority of people said they lived fairly close to the nearest park.

On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being *very close* and 5 being *very far*, the mean was 2.1. The mean number of miles was 6 miles or approximately 11 minutes from home. Sixty-three percent of respondents statewide said they drive to the nearest park, 28% walk, 4% ride a bike, and 3% said they do not go to the park. There are differences in perceptions of distance between COG regions. Respondents of MAG and PAG indicate the distance to the nearest park is less in terms of mileage and time when compared to mean values of mileage and distance of other COG respondents.

Table 55. Proximity of Respondents' Residence to Parks

Proximity	Very Close								Very Far		Mean
	1		2		3		4		5		
	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	
How far is the nearest park from your home?	46.5%	524	20.7%	233	17.7%	199	6.5%	73	8.7%	98	2.1
Proximity to the nearest park (miles)	1.73 miles		4.58 miles		9.34 miles		9.79 miles		25.72 miles		6.11 miles
Proximity to the nearest park (minutes)	4.84 min		9.03 min		16.57 min		15.67 min		32.53 min		10.85 min

Interestingly, the majority of respondents drive to nearby parks more than any other form of transportation, despite the high percentage of respondents that indicated they live “very close” to a nearby park. When looking at mode of transportation among the COG regions, interesting trends appear. For the two COGs encapsulating Arizona’s largest metropolitan areas, MAG (Phoenix) and PAG (Tucson), as well as in CAAG, respondents from these jurisdictions were more likely to walk and bike to nearby parks and less likely to drive than the remaining three COGs. This is likely the case due to residents living in more dense suburban cores where parks are more prevalent and close in terms of time and distance. In the 2003 SCORP, travel distance or time did not seem to be a major deterrent to visiting parks and recreation areas in Arizona.

In Arizona State Parks’ 2003 Consumer Marketing Survey, three-quarters of Arizona residents (76.4%) used local park and recreation facilities provided by their own community in the last 12 months. The typical group size when visiting parks, recreation areas, natural areas and historic sites in Arizona is 2 to 3 people. Thirteen percent of residents belong to an organized group focused on parks, recreation or historic issues in Arizona. More than half of Arizonans (54.4%) said they used their local park at least once a month and nearly one-quarter (23.4%) said they used it once every two weeks (Table 56).

Table 56. Frequency of Use of Local Park and Recreation Facilities

Frequency of Use	Frequency	Percent
Less than once a month	4	1.2%
Once a month	179	54.4%
Once every two weeks	77	23.4%
Once a week	15	4.6%
Several times a week	31	9.4%
Every day	23	7%
Total	329	100%

FUNDING PRIORITIES

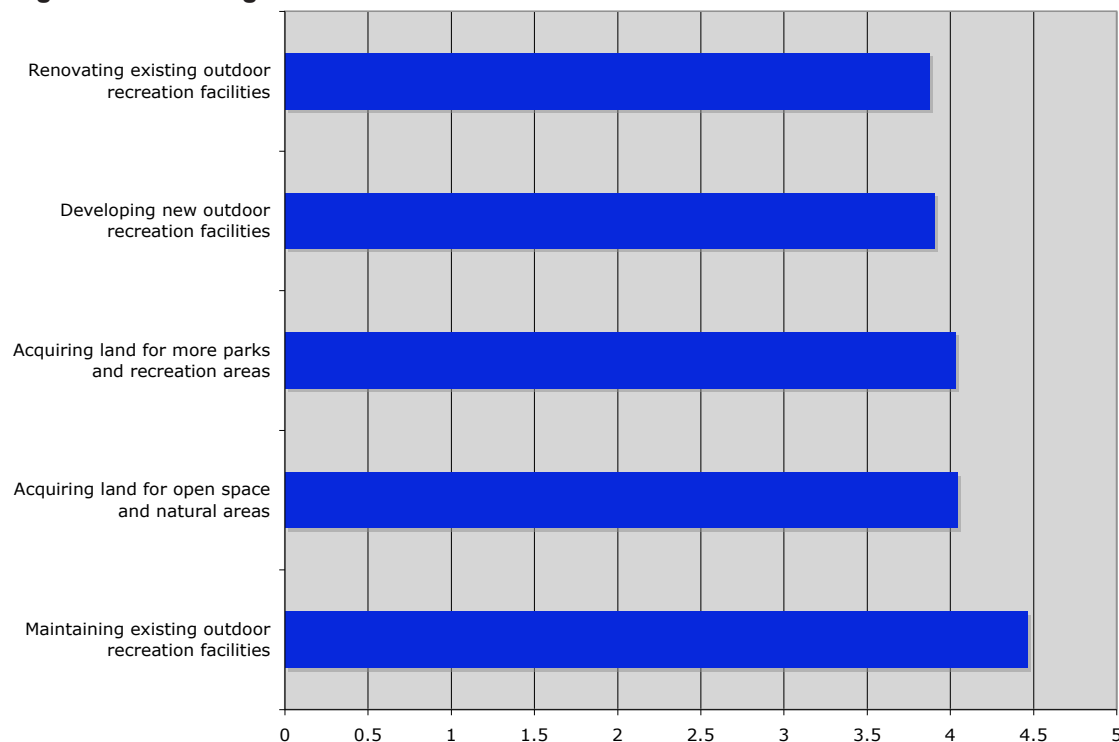
Another important aspect of recreation planning is funding. One of the goals of this research was to determine the perceived level of importance by the public regarding several funding issues. Respondents were asked how their local parks and recreation departments should spend the limited funds they receive. Respondents were given five expenditure categories to rate, according to a five point scale ranging from 1, meaning the funding issue is *not at all important*, to 5, meaning it is *extremely important*.

The first question asked respondents to rate the importance of each expenditure category on its own (Table 57, Figure 20), the second question asked respondents to choose the single one most important area to spend the limited parks and recreation funds (Table 58, Figure 21).

Table 57. Funding Priorities—Public Statewide

Funding Category	Not at all Important	←————→				Extremely Important	Mean
	1	2	3	4	5		
Maintaining existing outdoor facilities	1.3%	2%	9.8%	23.3%	63.5%		4.46
Renovating existing outdoor recreation facilities	3.3%	5%	21.1%	25.5%	45.1%		4.04
Acquiring land for open space and natural areas	5.9%	7.1%	15.7%	20.1%	51.1%		4.03
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities	4%	7.3%	23.4%	24.8%	40.5%		3.9
Acquiring land for more parks and recreation areas	6.4%	7.6%	21.7%	21%	43.2%		3.87

Figure 20. Funding Priorities—Public Statewide



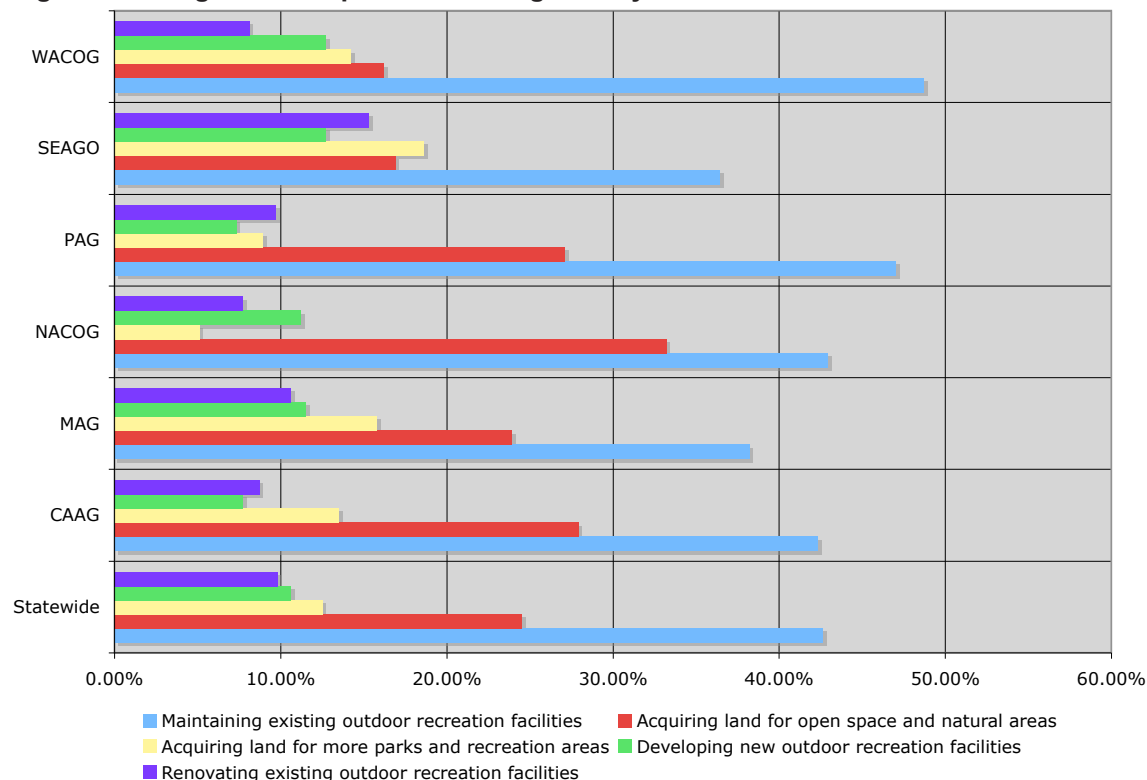
While all funding categories ranked very high, *maintaining existing outdoor facilities* was definitely the highest rated priority, whether ranked with the other categories (63.5% said *extremely important*) or selected as the single most important category (42.6% chose it). The second highest for the single most important funding category was *acquiring land for open space and natural areas* (24.5% chose it).

There were some differences in funding priorities when comparing responses regionally by COGs. Respondents in NACOG felt *acquiring land for open space* was more important than other COGs did, and *acquiring land for more parks* was less important. Respondents from SEAGO seem to be less concerned about *maintenance* and ranked *acquiring land for more parks* and *renovating existing facilities* higher than the statewide norm. Both SEAGO and WACOG ranked *acquiring land for open space* lower than the statewide norm.

Table 58. Single Most Important Funding Priority—Public

Funding Category	Statewide	CAAG	MAG	NACOG	PAG	SEAGO	WACOG
Maintaining existing outdoor recreation facilities	42.6%	42.3%	38.2%	42.9%	47%	36.4%	48.7%
Acquiring land for open space and natural areas	24.5%	27.9%	23.9%	33.2%	27.1%	16.9%	16.2%
Acquiring land for more parks and recreation areas	12.5%	13.5%	15.8%	5.1%	8.9%	18.6%	14.2%
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities	10.6%	7.7%	11.5%	11.2%	7.3%	12.7%	12.7%
Renovating existing outdoor recreation facilities	9.8%	8.7%	10.6%	7.7%	9.7%	15.3%	8.1%


Figure 21. Single Most Important Funding Priority—Public



Recreation Providers were asked a slightly different version of the funding categories than the general public. Provider responses on the funding priorities are shown in Tables 59 and 60. All funding categories rated very high with *operational costs*, *developing new facilities costing over \$30,000* and *renovating existing facilities* as the three most important. Responses were generally similar across different COGs, community types and organization types.

Providers were asked to prioritize a few funding items that weren't asked in the public survey, notably *environmental and cultural studies and permits*, and *development of new outdoor recreation facilities* was split into two funding categories: *projects under \$30,000* and *projects over \$30,000*. The maintenance question was worded to reflect *operational costs such as staffing, overhead, etc.*

Table 59. Funding Priorities—Providers

Funding Category	Not at all Important				Extremely Important	Mean
	1	2	3	4	5	
Operational costs for existing facilities	1.9%	2.9%	11.5%	8.7%	75%	4.6
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities >\$30,000	2.9%	2.9%	8.8%	14.7%	70.6%	4.5
Renovating existing outdoor recreation facilities	1.9%	2.9%	12.5%	17.3%	65.4%	4.4
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities <\$30,000	3%	8.1%	22.2%	15.2%	51.5%	4
Acquiring land for more parks and recreation areas	8.6%	11.4%	11.4%	12.4%	56.2%	3.9
Environmental/cultural studies, clearances, permits	2.9%	8.7%	25%	20.2%	43.3%	3.9
Acquiring land for open space and natural areas	7.8%	14.6%	15.5%	12.6%	49.5%	3.6

When asked to choose the single most important funding need, respondents overwhelmingly chose *operational costs*, with *developing new facilities costing over \$30,000* and *renovating existing facilities* coming in second and third respectively. Both providers and the public saw maintenance as the top priority need, but the two groups differed on the number two need, with the public choosing *acquiring land for open space* as the clear choice for second most important funding need (Table 60).

Table 60. Single Most Important Funding Priority—Providers

Funding Category - Chosen as the one most important	Percent	Frequency
Operational costs for existing facilities	34.9%	37
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities >\$30,000	20.8%	22
Renovating existing outdoor recreation facilities	18.9%	20
Developing new outdoor recreation facilities <\$30,000	11.3%	12
Acquiring land for more parks and recreation areas	9.4%	10
Environmental/cultural studies, clearances, permits	2.8%	3
Acquiring land for open space and natural areas	1.9%	2

OUTDOOR RECREATION ISSUES

Recreation issues are another large area of concern for recreation planners and providers. In the public survey, respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with twelve statements about outdoor recreation and related issues such as growth, user conflicts, access and resource protection.

Overall, the recreation issues that received the greatest levels of agreement, in terms of mean values, were related to neighborhood parks and open space. By a significant margin, the strongest agreement for all Arizonans was *the desire to have open space near a person's home*. While each person may define open space a little differently, the presence of nearby parks, recreation areas and natural environments seems to be a top priority for most people in choosing which house to purchase. The second highest agreed upon statement was that *parks and recreation areas in a person's community were well-maintained*.

The least level of agreement among all respondents had to do with conflict between homeowners and recreation users being a problem (respondents did not agree that this is a problem) and with the idea that providing recreation activities is more important than protecting natural and cultural resources. In other words, respondents felt that protecting natural and cultural resources is more important than providing recreation (Table 61).

Table 61. Outdoor Recreation Issues—Public Statewide

Level of Agreement with Issue Statement	Strongly Disagree	←————→				Strongly Agree	Mean
	1	2	3	4	5		
If I bought a house in my community, having open space nearby would be a top priority	6.1%	7%	19.6%	17.4%	49.9%		3.98
The parks and recreation areas in my community are generally well-maintained	7%	7.6%	20.3%	33.1%	32%		3.76
Increasing population growth is making it much more difficult to have enough parks, open space and natural areas in my community	12.4%	11%	19.5%	17.1%	39.9%		3.61
Access to public recreation lands in my area is adequate	8.4%	9.3%	25.5%	25.9%	31%		3.62
I'm satisfied with the number of parks and playgrounds in my community	16.7%	13.8%	21.7%	19.2%	28.5%		3.29
I'm satisfied with the amount of natural areas and open space in my community	15.3%	13.9%	23.6%	19.7%	27.5%		3.3
There is a lack of recreation opportunities in my area for people with special needs	16.6%	14.5%	26.5%	15.4%	27.1%		3.22
Natural and cultural resources in my area are negatively affected by recreational uses	30.3%	22%	26%	12.3%	9.5%		2.49
In general, people have sufficient knowledge and awareness about the natural environment	27.4%	27.2%	25.1%	11.3%	8.9%		2.47
My outdoor recreation experience is often negatively impacted by other recreation users	34.3%	23.4%	22.2%	8.7%	11.4%		2.4
Providing recreation activities is more important than protecting natural and cultural resources	39.9%	23%	23.1%	5.6%	8.4%		2.2
Conflicts between homeowners and recreation users are a problem in my area	44.1%	21.6%	15.7%	8.1%	10.4%		2.19

Regarding the number of neighborhood parks and their maintenance, MAG rated the highest level of agreement among all COG regions and CAAG rated the lowest level of agreement, although they both are hovering around the neutral zone of the scale. This seems to indicate that as the Phoenix metropolitan area continues to develop master planned communities, municipalities and HOAs are doing their part to meet this need relative to other COGs. Regarding conflict, the same trend exists, respondents from MAG are experiencing the least conflict relative to other COG regions and CAAG is experiencing the most.

Table 62. Outdoor Recreation Issues by COGs — Public

Level of Agreement with Issue Statement by COG	CAAG	MAG	NACOG	PAG	SEAGO	WACOG
	Mean Level of Agreement					
If I bought a house in my community, having open space nearby would be a top priority	3.98	3.93	4.15	3.96	4.01	3.9
The parks and recreation areas in my community are generally well-maintained	3.51	3.94	3.58	3.81	3.53	3.82
Increasing population growth is making it much more difficult to have enough parks, open space and natural areas in my community	3.61	3.7	3.64	3.68	3.34	3.51
Access to the public outdoor recreation lands in my area is adequate	3.33	3.66	3.69	3.63	3.72	3.55
I'm satisfied with the number of parks and playgrounds in my community	3.05	3.48	3.31	3.34	3.03	3.14
I'm satisfied with the amount of natural areas and open space in my community	3.25	3.3	3.47	3.22	3.14	3.37
There is a lack of recreation opportunities in my area for people with special needs	3.13	3.14	3.13	3.3	3.44	3.24
Natural and cultural resources in my area are negatively affected by recreational uses	2.32	2.46	2.6	2.5	2.33	2.59
In general, people have sufficient knowledge and awareness about the natural environment	2.5	2.4	2.48	2.47	2.54	2.55
My outdoor recreation experience is often negatively impacted by other recreation users	2.53	2.3	2.5	2.34	2.4	2.45
Providing recreation activities is more important than protecting natural and cultural resources	2.03	2.23	2.07	2.18	2.36	2.28
Conflicts between homeowners and recreation users are a problem in my area	2.41	2	2.33	2.27	2.19	2.17

When evaluated regionally by COG, the statement, *parks and recreation areas in a person's community were well-maintained*, was chosen third by CAAG and SEAGO and fourth by NACOG, indicating less agreement with this statement by respondents in these COGs. Third in statewide ranking was the growth statement *increasing population growth is making it much more difficult to have enough parks, open space and natural areas in my community*, however, CAAG rated it as second, and SEAGO and WACOG rated it as fourth. The statement that rated fourth statewide *agreed that access to public outdoor recreation lands is adequate*, however, NACOG and SEAGO rated it second and WACOG rated it third, indicating that public land access may be a bigger issue in MAG, PAG and CAAG, where population growth and development is extremely high.

Coming in fifth, sixth and seventh statewide, and in some variation of that order by the six COGs, were statements that respondents agreed they were *satisfied with the number of parks and playgrounds* and *satisfied with the natural areas and open space in their area*, and that there is a *lack of recreation opportunities for people with special needs*.

On the opposite side of the scale, respondents statewide and within each COG indicated they did not agree with the remaining five statements. Two of these statements referred to *recreational uses negatively affecting natural and cultural resources* and *providing recreational activities is more important than protecting natural and cultural resources*. Two of the statements referred to *user conflicts* that respondents indicated were not a big problem, and one referred to *people having sufficient knowledge and awareness about the natural environment* which respondents disagreed.



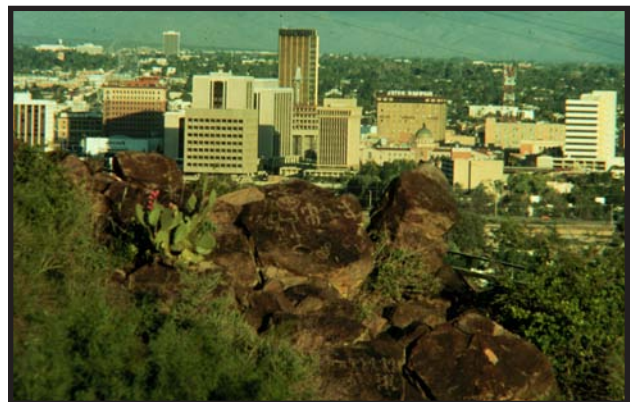
Municipal swimming pools and aquatic centers are kid magnets. [Courtesy of Scottsdale Parks & Recreation Dept.]

For households with children less than six years old, as well as households with children between six and 18, there were slight differences regarding certain recreation issues. Respondents from these households indicated that they are more likely to agree with statements regarding parks and open space near their homes.

Other than the results just highlighted, the remaining crosstabs of recreation issues by community type, Hispanic/non-Hispanic origin, children/no-children in household tell the same story as the general trends with very few noteworthy differences. Respondents' levels of agreement remain uniform among these

demographic differences, indicating that these issues are generally of relative equal importance despite where the respondent lives, type of household, and race.

The following six bar charts (Figures 22-27) each include two of the issues and compare responses by COG with the statewide mean. There were only slight differences between COG responses regarding *satisfaction with number of parks* and *satisfaction with amount of open space*, with MAG and PAG more *satisfied with the number of parks* than the other four COGs. SEAGO was slightly less concerned than other COGs about *growth and parks*. *Conflicts between homeowners and recreation users* and *conflicts between different recreation users* seems slightly more of a problem in CAAG and NACOG than other COGs.



As cities grow they engulf the surrounding natural environment and cultural resources, and without good planning they can pave over the amenities that people are attracted to and value. [Tucson from Tumamoc Hill]

Figure 22. Outdoor Recreation Issues—Regional Satisfaction with *Parks and Open Space*

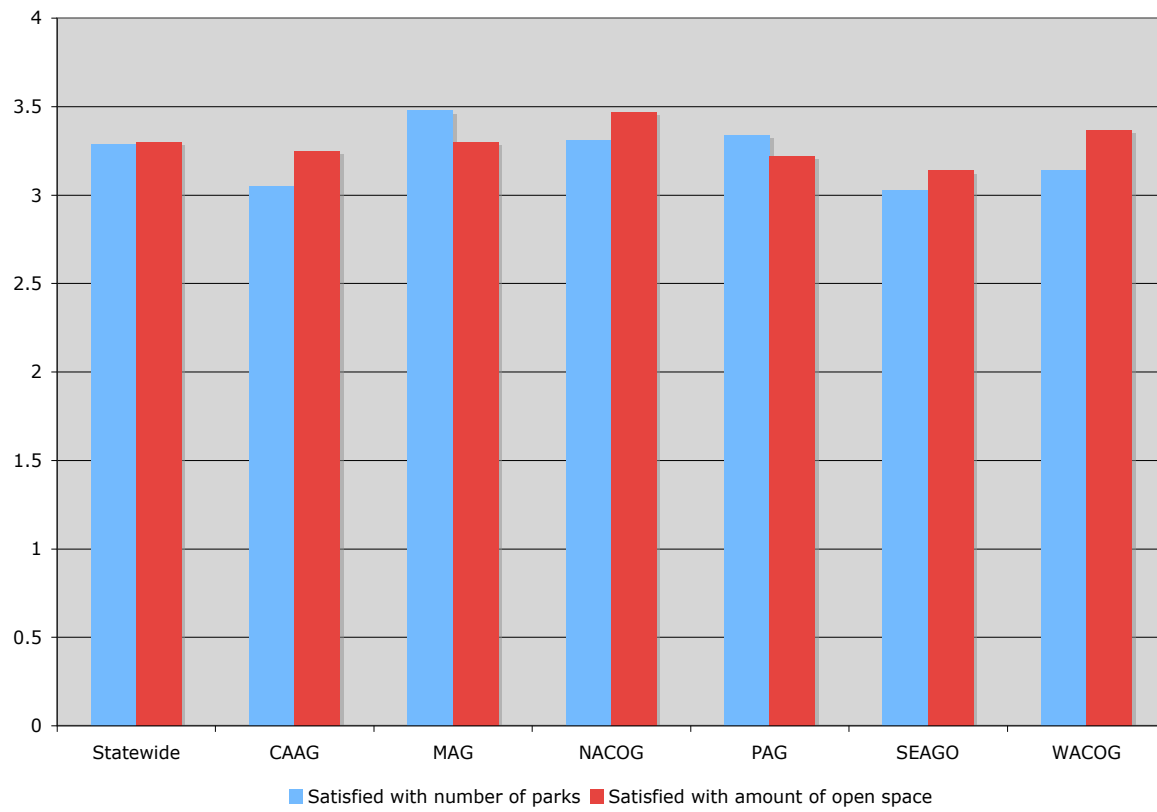


Figure 23. Outdoor Recreation Issues—Regional Opinions on *Park Maintenance and Access*

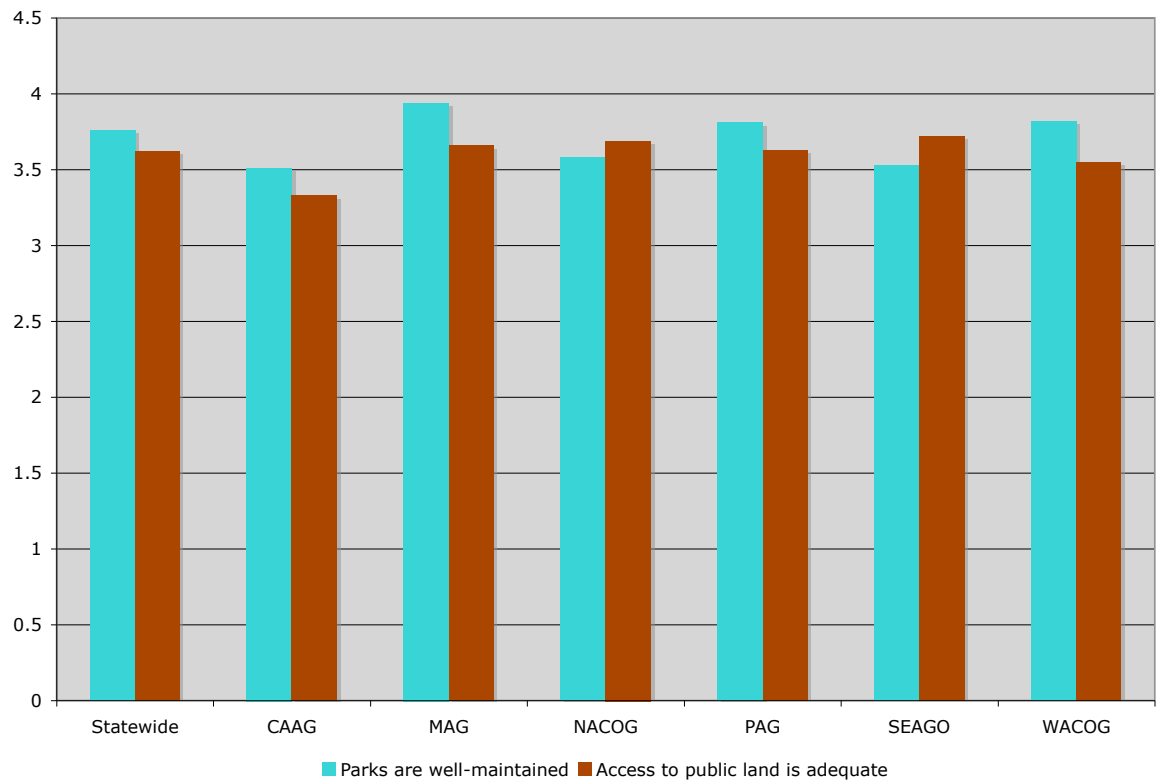


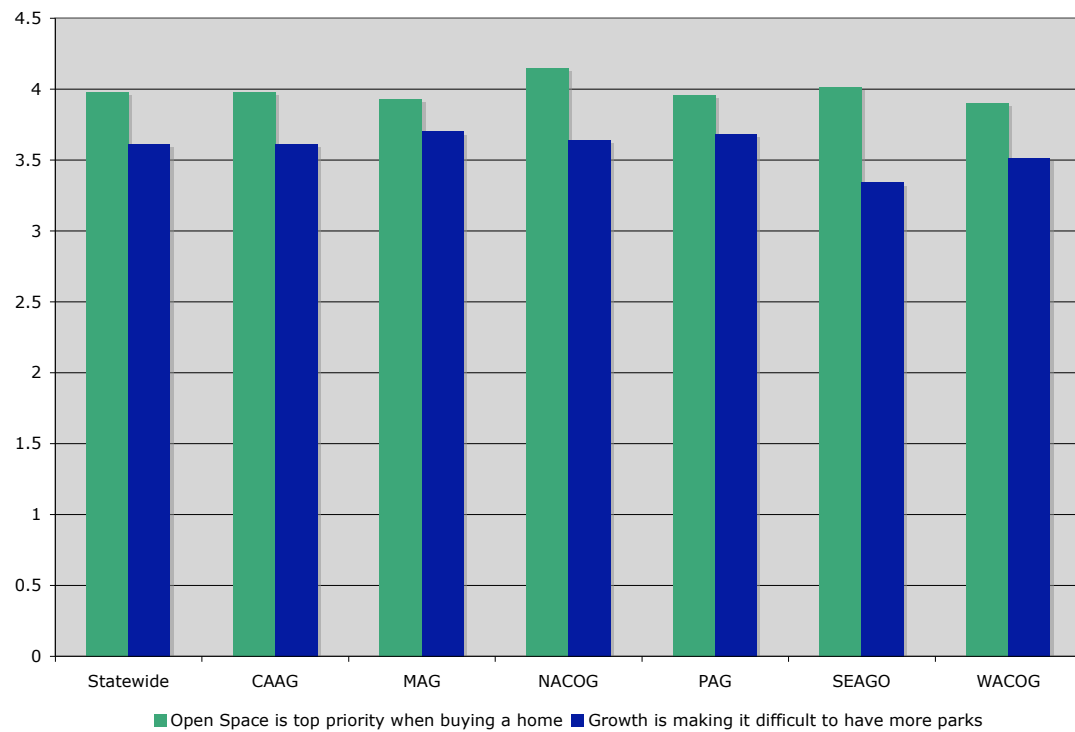
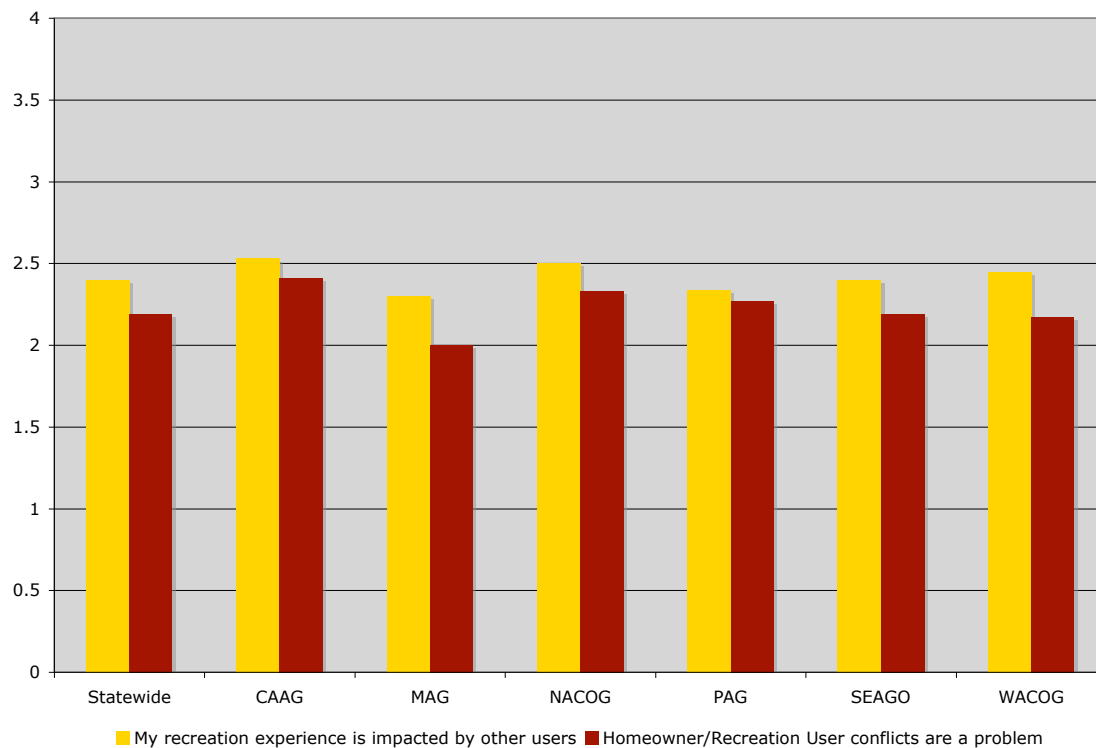
Figure 24. Outdoor Recreation Issues—Regional Opinions on *Open Space and Growth***Figure 25. Outdoor Recreation Issues—Regional Opinions on *Recreation Use Conflicts***

Figure 26. Outdoor Recreation Issues—Regional Opinions on *Resource Protection*

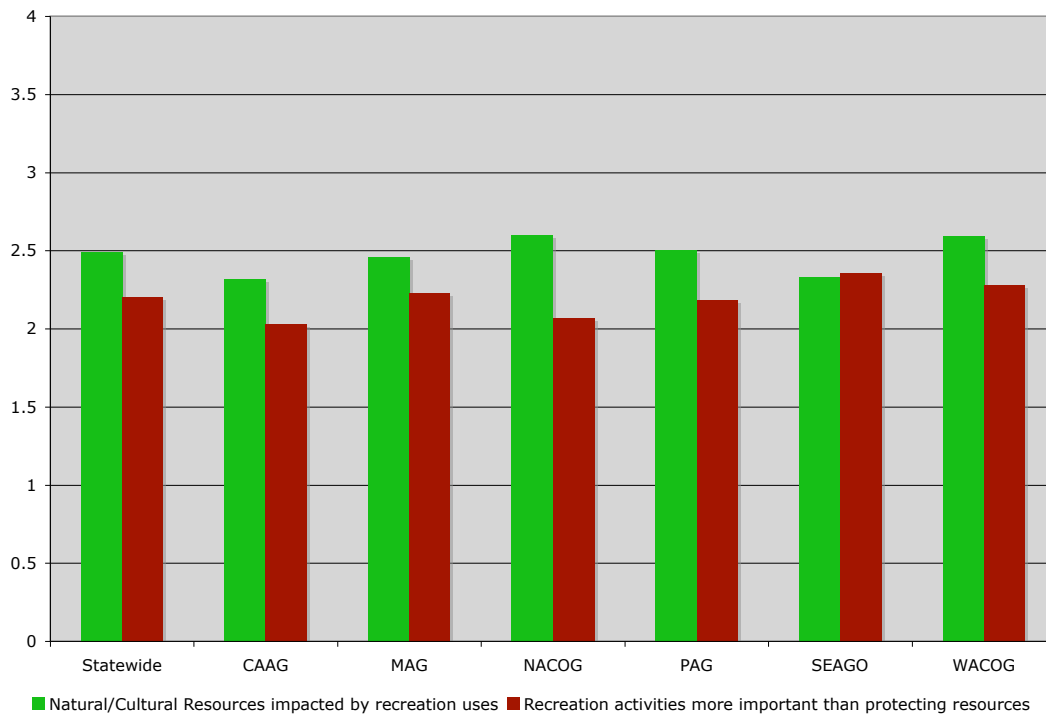


Figure 27. Outdoor Recreation Issues—Regional Opinions on *Special Needs Opportunities*

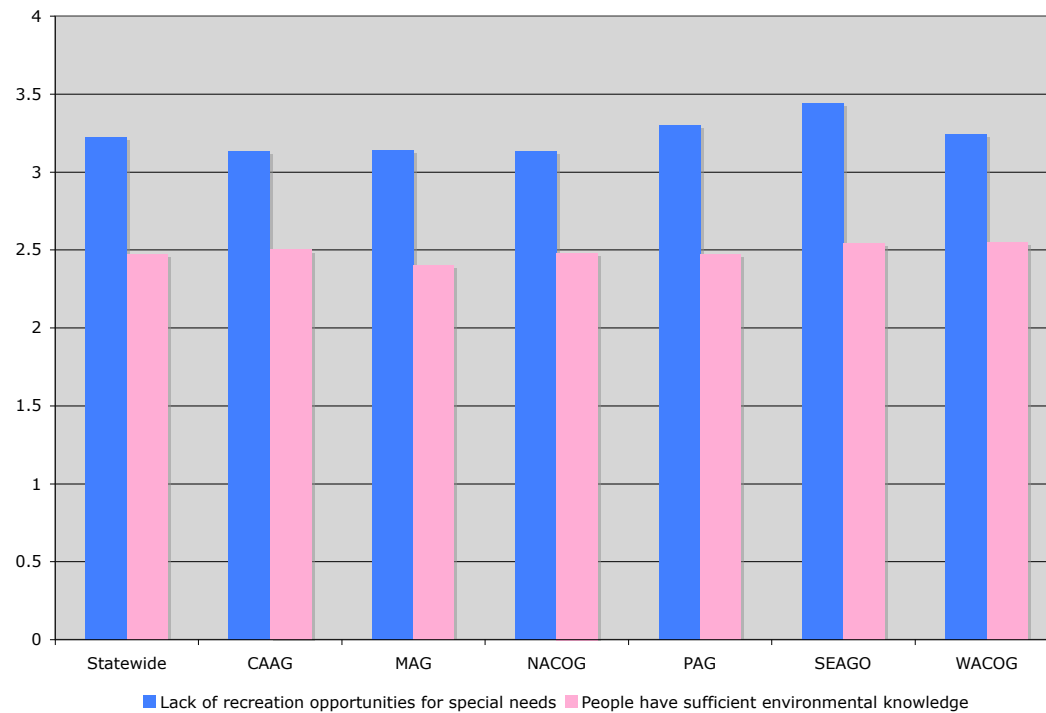


Table 63. Recreation Issues by Respondents' Community Type

Level of Agreement with Issue Statement by Community Type	Large City	Small City	Town	Rural Area
	Mean Level of Agreement—Scale 1 to 5			
If I bought a house in my community, having open space would be a top priority	3.9	3.92	4.13	4.08
The parks and recreation areas in my community are generally well-maintained	3.84	3.86	3.78	3.4
Increasing population growth is making it much more difficult to have more parks and open space	3.7	3.58	3.7	3.4
Access to the public outdoor recreation lands in my area is adequate	3.67	3.56	3.67	3.53
I'm satisfied with the number of parks and playgrounds in my area	3.38	3.24	3.27	3.13
I'm satisfied with the amount of natural areas and open space in my area	3.24	3.23	3.36	3.39
There is a lack of recreation opportunities in my area for people with special needs	3.19	3.22	3.29	3.19
Natural and cultural resources in my area are negatively affected by recreation uses	2.47	2.6	2.47	2.38
In general, people have sufficient knowledge and awareness about the natural environment	2.4	2.47	2.68	2.42
My outdoor recreation experience is often negatively impacted by other recreation users	2.37	2.42	2.42	2.49
Providing recreation activities is more important than protecting natural and cultural resources	2.2	2.29	2.22	2.1
Conflicts between homeowners and recreation users are a problem in my area	2.08	2.23	2.36	2.25

Table 64. Recreation Issues by Hispanic Origin

Level of Agreement with Issue Statement by Hispanic/NonHispanic Origin	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
	Mean Level of Agreement	
If I bought a house in my community, having open space would be a top priority	4.11	3.94
The parks and recreation areas in my community are generally well-maintained	3.66	3.78
Increasing population growth is making it much more difficult to have more parks and open space	3.42	3.66
Access to the public outdoor recreation lands in my area is adequate	3.7	3.6
I'm satisfied with the number of parks and playgrounds in my area	3.3	3.29
I'm satisfied with the amount of natural areas and open space in my area	3.2	3.32
There is a lack of recreation opportunities in my area for people with special needs	3.56	3.1
Natural and cultural resources in my area are negatively affected by recreation uses	2.66	2.44
In general, people have sufficient knowledge and awareness about the natural environment	2.79	2.39
My outdoor recreation experience is often negatively impacted by other recreation users	2.52	2.37
Providing recreation activities is more important than protecting natural and cultural resources	2.66	2.08
Conflicts between homeowners and recreation users are a problem in my area	2.34	2.14

In the Providers survey, respondents were asked more detailed questions concerning the outdoor recreation issues described in the public survey. There seems to be widely varying ideas of what type of lands constitute “open space”. Regarding the definition of open space, recreation providers were asked if they agree with selected types of open space (Table 65).

Certain types regarding open space were agreed upon more than others. Definitions involving terminology such as forests, minimal development and parks and recreation areas received relatively high scores of agreement, while definitions such as golf courses, sport fields, farmland and ranchland rated lower and had a much wider variance between organization types (towns, cities and counties rated them higher) and COGS (MAG, PAG and WACOG rated them higher).

Table 65. Agreement for Definitions of Open Space — Providers

Open Space Types or Definitions	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
Land in natural setting with no development (forests, natural lakes, riparian areas, wilderness areas, washes)	1%	3.8%	5.8%	15.4%	74%	4.6
Land in natural setting with minimal development	4.8%	2.9%	10.6%	46.2%	35.6%	4
Land that is altered but not developed (vacant lots, fallow land)	12.6%	25.2%	31.1%	22.3%	8.7%	2.9
Undeveloped parks and recreation areas	3.8%	9.5%	16.2%	39%	31.4%	3.8
Developed parks and recreation areas	10.5%	15.2%	17.1%	35.2%	21.9%	3.4
Golf courses	32.4%	24.8%	17.1%	17.1%	8.6%	2.4
Sport fields	35.2%	21.9%	17.1%	18.1%	7.6%	2.4
Farmland/Ranchland	18.1%	25.7%	15.2%	28.6%	12.4%	2.9
Floodplains and retention basins	15.2%	12.4%	19%	37.1%	16.2%	3.3
Cemeteries	50.5%	22.9%	17.1%	9.5%	0%	1.9

There also seems to be differing opinions on the purposes for acquiring and protecting open space. Some providers think it is to provide “breathing room” between developments and any undeveloped land will suffice, others think it is to acquire needed parks or recreational lands, others want it to be natural undisturbed lands suitable for wildlife habitat. Open space requirements and specific purposes are rarely defined in local plans, leaving it open to interpretation by developers, planners and decision-makers. This often results in a community’s designated open space that is basically unsuitable and even unusable for recreation, wildlife habitat or scenic viewshed purposes.

Providers were asked how much they agree or disagree (1 to 5 scale) with the following seven statements concerning open space (Table 66). Respondents agreed with most statements at moderate to high levels except *adequate planning for open space* received very low scores indicating a need for improvement in this area. Providers from cities were more likely than providers from towns and rural areas to agree that *increasing growth and development is decreasing the amount of open space in their area*.

Table 66. Agreement for Issues Concerning Open Space – Providers

Open Space Issues	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
My community has adequate open space	18.4%	17.5%	12.6%	28.2%	23.3%	3.2
Increasing growth/development is reducing open space in my area	8.7%	10.6%	8.7%	15.4%	56.7%	4
There is conflict between existing residents and newcomers competing for open space or impacting its availability	5%	6.9%	22.8%	31.7%	33.7%	3.8
Access to open space/public lands is a problem in my area	11.9%	22.8%	15.8%	24.8%	24.8%	3.3
There is a conflict regarding the desired level of use/development within open space lands	5.1%	9.1%	24.2%	38.4%	23.2%	3.7
Securing access to public lands/open space through private lands is an issue	4.9%	6.9%	16.7%	33.3%	38.2%	3.9
Planning for open space in my area is adequate	30.3%	28.3%	17.2%	18.2%	6.1%	2.4

Growth is an issue for many involved in outdoor recreation. Providers were asked how much they agree or disagree (1 to 5 scale) with the following three statements concerning growth (Table 67). Similar to open space issues, growth issues were not highly variable among providers from different COGs, community types or organization types. One exception to this is the matter of growth reducing availability of land for parks and open space, where respondents representing more developed jurisdictions recognize that growth is impeding the availability of land for parks and open space.

Well-thought out land use plans that identify and provide for sufficient parkland, trail systems and open space, and clearly identified and enforced ordinances, development set asides and zoning restrictions may help to mediate some of the negative effects of rapid growth currently affecting several of Arizona's expanding cities and towns.

Table 67. Agreement for Issues Concerning Growth – Providers

Growth Issues	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
Growth in my area is a threat to access to parks and open space	7.8%	15.5%	16.5%	27.2%	33%	3.6
Growth has increased the cost of land for parks and open space	2%	2%	10.9%	17.8%	67.3%	4.5
Growth has decreased the availability of land desired for parks and open space	4.9%	7.8%	16.5%	26.2%	44.7%	4

Interesting trends in law enforcement indicate that federal agencies have more problems with law enforcement than do counties and towns. This might be due to the overlap of law enforcement operations within local municipal jurisdictions and the presence of both police and parks and recreation personnel in cities that do not exist in more remote federally managed areas. Border impacts were a much higher concern for state and federal agencies than for cities and towns. Overall, there were moderately high scores for all law enforcement and safety issues. Providers were asked how much they agree or disagree (1 to 5 scale) with the following five statements concerning law enforcement and safety (Table 68).

Table 68. Agreement for Issues Concerning Law Enforcement and Safety – Providers

Law Enforcement/Safety Issues	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
Vandalism is an issue in parks and recreation areas in my area	1%	6.7%	11.4%	35.2%	45.7%	4.2
Too much trash/litter in parks and recreation areas impacts visitor enjoyment in my area	1.9%	5.8%	13.9%	27.9%	51%	4.2
Law enforcement for illegal activities in parks and recreation areas is an issue in my area	1.9%	7.8%	13.6%	37.9%	38.8%	4
User education of laws/regulations regarding recreation activities is a need in my area	0%	5.8%	21.2%	39.4%	33.7%	4
Border impacts (trespass, safety, security, litter, resource damage, vandalism) in parks and recreation areas is an issue in my area	9.9%	13.9%	12.9%	23.8%	39.6%	3.7

Providers were asked how much they agree or disagree (1 to 5 scale) with the following nine statements concerning resource protection (Table 69). Most resource protection issues were scored at moderate levels of agreement. Only two of nine issues received scores indicating disagreement. For most issues, managers in different COGs, organization types, and community served types agreed on resource protection issues. However, federal managers responded differently than city and town parks managers for issues related to resource protection. These results indicate that there may be higher resource standards for federal agencies or that they must deal with resource issues more frequently. Interesting to note, only respondents from rural community types indicated that providing for recreation use is more important than resource protection.

Table 69. Agreement for Issues Concerning Resource Protection – Providers

Resource Protection Issues	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean
Natural and cultural resources are being degraded/impacted by recreational uses	3.8%	11.4%	15.2%	34.3%	35.2%	3.9
My agency limits recreation development to protect natural resources	4.8%	12.4%	21%	28.6%	33.3%	3.7
My agency limits recreation use to protect natural resources	5.7%	17.1%	20%	28.6%	28.6%	3.6
My agency has adequate laws or policies to protect natural resources	4.8%	10.5%	15.2%	41.9%	27.6%	3.8
My agency has adequate laws or policies to protect cultural resources	4.8%	8.7%	20.2%	38.5%	27.9%	3.8
My agency believes that providing for recreation use is more important than resource protection	27.9%	28.8%	23.1%	12.5%	7.7%	2.4
My agency believes that providing for revenue generation is more important than resource protection	34.6%	22.1%	20.2%	15.4%	7.7%	2.4
My agency limits the land uses adjacent to open space and natural areas/preserves	10.4%	26%	31.3%	25%	7.3%	2.9
One of the goals of my agency is sustainability of natural resources	1.9%	4.8%	17.3%	26.9%	49%	4.2

Assistance Strategies and Data Needs

Providers were asked how helpful (on a 1 to 5 scale) the following four types of assistance strategies were to them (Table 70). Overall, assistance for funding, grants and cooperative efforts were perceived to be more helpful than technical assistance and training and education. There were no notable differences by COGs, organization types or community type.

Table 70. Assistance Strategies Helpful to Agency Goals – Providers

Assistance Strategies	Extremely Unhelpful	Unhelpful	Neutral	Helpful	Extremely Helpful	Mean
Training and educational workshops	4.9%	2.9%	10.7%	51.5%	30.1%	4
Technical assistance	1%	4.8%	17.1%	48.6%	28.6%	4
Funding and grants	1%	1%	7.6%	26.7%	63.8%	4.5
Cooperative efforts	0%	2.9%	4.8%	33.3%	59%	4.5

When asked if it was known that Land and Water Conservation Fund monies can be used not only for recreation purposes but also for acquiring land for wetland conservation uses, the majority (70%) of land managers surveyed indicated they were aware of this fund resource.

Outdoor recreation providers need data to understand the outdoor recreation needs of the public. When asked if a community needs assessment that included outdoor recreation issues had been conducted in the respondents' agency, roughly two-thirds (64%) of respondents indicated that they have completed such assessments.

When asked what types of data would be helpful, providers indicated that data on a number of topics related to recreation management is desired by all agencies at moderate to high levels of helpfulness (Table 71). Data on special user interests and non-recreational users were relatively less helpful for respondents in this survey. There were several differences in degree of helpfulness based on COG and community type.

Table 71. Types of Data Needed – Providers

Data Needs	Extremely Unhelpful	Unhelpful	Neutral	Helpful	Extremely Helpful	Mean
Outdoor recreation trends	3.8%	2.9%	18.3%	41.3%	33.7%	4
Demand for outdoor recreation opportunities	1.9%	1%	14.4%	41.3%	41.3%	4.2
Needs/interests of diverse populations	0%	1.9%	23.1%	45.2%	29.8%	4
Special needs groups	0%	1%	23.1%	52.9%	23.1%	4
Special user interests	3.8%	11.5%	36.5%	30.8%	17.3%	3.5
Willingness to pay	2.9%	6.8%	18.4%	44.7%	27.2%	3.9
Economic benefits of outdoor recreation and open space	1.9%	1.9%	14.4%	49%	32.7%	4.1
Health and quality of life benefits of outdoor recreation and open space	1.9%	2.9%	12.5%	33.7%	49%	4.3
Non-recreational users	3.9%	6.8%	33%	35.9%	20.4%	3.6
Condition of recreation facilities/lands	1%	1.9%	11.5%	48.1%	37.5%	4.2
Baseline information on natural resources and lands	1%	4.8%	18.3%	39.4%	36.5%	4.1

As Arizona continues to grow at a rapid pace, more communities are expanding into each other or growing up against state and federal lands, requiring agencies at all levels to talk and meet with each other to plan and share resources, and collaborate regarding resource management, law enforcement and other issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Providers were asked what their needs were (on a 1 to 5 scale) related to various tasks their agencies may perform in coordination with other entities in the planning and management of parks, recreation lands, open space and adjacent lands (Table 72). All issues rated at relatively high levels of need.

Table 72. Coordination and Communication Issues – Providers

Level of Need for Coordinating with other agencies on tasks such as:	Low Need	Somewhat Low Need	Neutral	Somewhat High Need	High Need	Mean
Developing and providing outdoor recreation	1.9%	4.8%	9.5%	41.3%	42.9%	4.2
Managing the wildland/urban interface	5.7%	7.6%	9.5%	29.5%	47.6%	4.1
Resolving conflicts between residents/neighborhoods and local recreation users	3.8%	5.7%	31.4%	28.6%	30.5%	3.8
Law enforcement in parks and recreation areas	1%	3.8%	8.6%	35.2%	51.4%	4.3
Planning/regional planning for outdoor recreation and open space	1%	2.95%	8.6%	40%	47.6%	4.3
Sharing of resources (monies, equipment, staff) to plan, develop, manage or monitor recreation activities and lands	0%	2.9%	9.5%	34.3%	53.3%	4.4

When asked if their agency performed any other tasks with agencies related to coordination efforts, 23% said they do.

RECREATION BENEFITS

The perceived benefits of recreation can be linked directly to the “**quality of life**” of individuals within a larger community (See Chapter 3 on Benefits). What constitutes quality of life is subjective and there is much debate about how to determine or quantify it.

One approach is to describe the characteristics of the good life (helping others, getting along with family and friends) as dictated by religious or other philosophical systems. A second approach is based on the satisfaction of preferences, whether people can obtain the things they desire commensurate with their resources (buying the ideal house, vacations, hobbies). A third approach defines quality of life in terms of the experience of individuals, using such factors as joy, pleasure, contentment and life satisfaction (Diener and Suh, 1997).



The benefits of outdoor recreation are widespread and far-reaching. [Courtesy of AOT]

The following thirteen statements regarding the potential benefits of parks and recreation areas were used as indicators of quality of life for residents in Arizona and reflect a bit of all three approaches (Table 73). Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the statements regarding the benefits of outdoor recreation.

Table 73. Benefits of Parks, Recreation and Open Space – Public Statewide

Level of Agreement with Benefit Statements	Strongly Disagree	←————→				Strongly Agree	
<i>“Parks, recreation areas and open space benefit my area because they . . .”</i>	1	2	3	4	5		Mean
Promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity	1.7%	2.1%	10.7%	22.8%	62.8%		4.43
Provide opportunities for family interaction	1.6%	2.1%	9.8%	24.6%	61.7%		4.43
Make cities and regions better places to live	2.1%	2.9%	11.6%	23.5%	59.9%		4.36
Provide constructive activities for youth	3.6%	4.5%	15.9%	26.3%	49.7%		4.14
Increase community pride	2.7%	4.1%	19%	27.9%	46.3%		4.11
Promote mental health	5.4%	4.4%	15.9%	24.6%	49.7%		4.09
Protect natural and cultural resources	3.5%	6.3%	18.9%	27.6%	43.7%		4.02
Increase property values	4.4%	5.8%	21.3%	29.2%	39.4%		3.93
Attract tourists to the region	8.9%	11.3%	20.9%	21.9%	36.9%		3.66
Educate people about the environment	7.1%	10.5%	24.9%	24.5%	32.9%		3.66
Help local and regional economic development	5%	10.9%	30.3%	25.6%	28.1%		3.61
Increase the understanding and tolerance of others	7.9%	13.4%	30.9%	21%	27%		3.46
Attract new businesses	13.1%	20.2%	32.2%	14.7%	19.8%		3.08

Respondents statewide rated the top two benefits equally, *promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity* (85.6% agreed) and *provide opportunities for family interaction* (86.3% agreed). In the number three spot, 83.4% of respondents agreed that *parks, recreation areas and open space make cities and regions better places to live*, by all definitions, the basic quality of life statement.

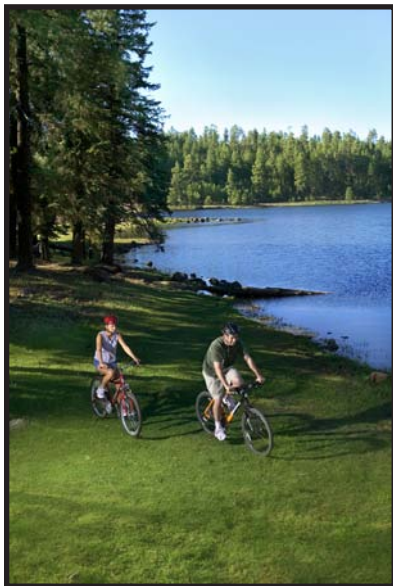
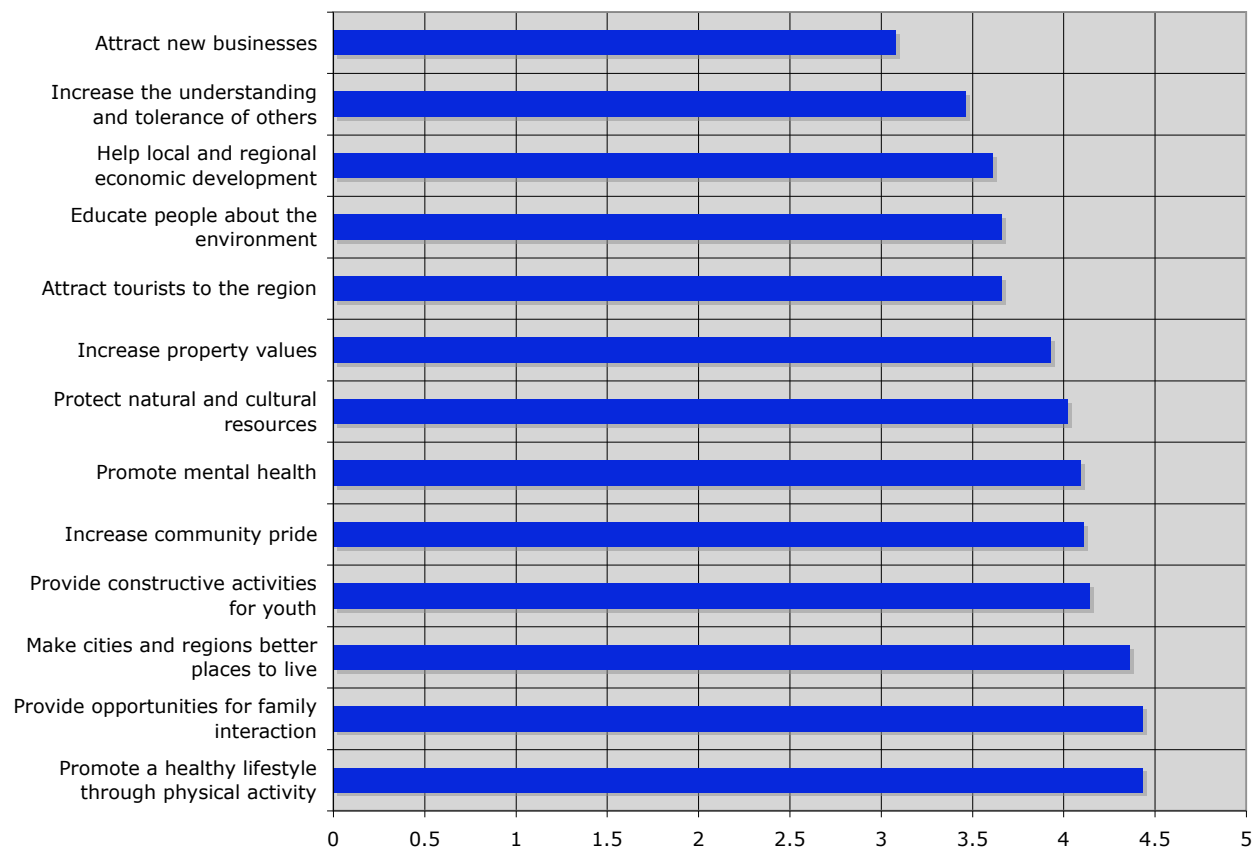
It has been well-documented that parks and recreation programs targeted specifically to youth *provide constructive activities* that can help to reduce juvenile crime when combined with other community efforts (see Benefits Chapter). This benefit was rated number four, with respondents agreeing 76% with the statement. Two benefits tied for number five: *increase community pride* and *promote mental health* with respondents agreeing 74.2% and 74.3% respectively with this statement.

While still ranked favorably, the four *economic-related benefits* ranked lower overall, as did statements relating to *environmental education* and *increasing tolerance of others*.

There is not one single item in this list of thirteen recreation benefits that scored lower than a mean value of three indicating that recreation benefits are a concept these respondents are more than likely to adopt.

Figure 28. Benefits of Parks, Recreation Areas and Open Space (public statewide mean)

“Parks, recreation areas and open space benefit my area because they . . .”



Overall, there are very few cross tabular differences in the results of this survey item. COG regions reveal only slight differences based on economic benefits such as attracting tourists to the region (Table 74).

Respondents from MAG rated their level of agreement noticeably less than other COG regions, indicating that either recreation does not contribute to tourism in the region, or if this occurs, is not considered a major benefit.

*Reaping the benefits of recreating outdoors can be as simple as walking or riding a bike.
[Courtesy of AOT]*

Table 74. Recreation Benefits by COGs – Public

Level of Agreement with Benefit Statement by COG	State	CAAG	MAG	NACOG	PAG	SEAGO	WACOG
	Mean Level of Agreement						
Promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity	4.43	4.39	4.5	4.43	4.46	4.29	4.37
Provide opportunities for family interaction	4.43	4.45	4.5	4.45	4.41	4.3	4.36
Make cities and regions better places to live	4.36	4.25	4.44	4.36	4.4	4.26	4.3
Provide constructive activities for youth	4.14	4.15	4.22	4.11	4.2	4.04	4.01
Increase community pride	4.11	3.94	4.17	4.12	4.17	4.1	4.02
Promote mental health	4.09	4.07	4.19	4.14	4.09	4.03	3.91
Protect natural and cultural resources	4.02	3.99	3.96	4.07	4.17	3.99	3.92
Increase property values	3.93	3.85	4.06	3.87	4.03	3.74	3.82
Attract tourists to the region	3.66	3.81	3.44	3.8	3.65	3.78	3.79
Educate people about the environment	3.66	3.79	3.61	3.74	3.77	3.63	3.46
Help local and regional economic development	3.61	3.72	3.54	3.69	3.48	3.53	3.79
Increase the understanding and tolerance of others	3.46	3.59	3.43	3.36	3.46	3.57	3.48
Attract new businesses	3.08	3.13	3	3.1	2.93	3.24	3.24

People living in large cities were least likely to say that parks *attract new businesses* or *attract tourists to the region*.

Table 75. Recreation Benefits by Community Type – Public

Level of Agreement with Benefit Statement by Community Type	Large City	Small City	Town	Rural Area
	N = 465	N = 278	N = 228	N = 198
	Mean Level of Agreement			
Promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity	4.47	4.46	4.41	4.34
Provide opportunities for family interaction	4.46	4.44	4.48	4.32
Make cities and regions better places to live	4.4	4.38	4.34	4.31
Provide constructive activities for youth	4.21	4.24	4.12	3.91
Increase community pride	4.17	4.19	4.1	3.93
Promote mental health	4.13	4.12	4.11	3.92
Protect natural and cultural resources	4.01	4.06	4.15	3.85
Increase property values	3.99	3.94	4	3.75
Attract tourists to the region	3.51	3.69	3.87	3.74
Educate people about the environment	3.6	3.71	3.79	3.63
Help local and regional economic development	3.49	3.71	3.74	3.57
Increase the understanding and tolerance of others	3.4	3.5	3.51	3.53
Attract new businesses	2.9	3.24	3.29	3.03

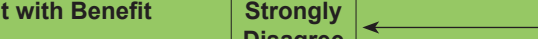
When looking at responses between ethnic groups, Hispanics rated the economic benefits somewhat higher than non-Hispanics. The mean level of agreement by Hispanics for *increase property values* was 4.11 versus 3.89 by non-Hispanics, 3.49 versus 2.97 for *attract new businesses*, 3.91 versus 3.60 for *attract tourists to the region*, and 3.83 versus 3.56 for *help local and regional economic development*. Also, *increase the understanding and tolerance of others* was rated a mean of 3.75 by Hispanics versus 3.38 by non-Hispanics.

Households with children less than six years old, as well as households with children between six and 18, were more likely to agree with the idea of parks and open spaces providing constructive activities for youth as a recreation benefit.

Other than the results just highlighted, the remaining crosstabs of recreation issues by community type, Hispanic/non-Hispanic origin, children/no-children in household tell the same story as the general trends with very few noteworthy differences. Respondents' levels of agreement remain uniform among these demographic differences, indicating that these benefits are generally of relative equal importance despite where the respondent lives, type of household, and race.

Providers of outdoor recreation were asked the same benefits questions. Managers scored all benefits as very high, indicating agreement that recreation does benefit society to some degree. Interestingly, town and county organization respondents agreed that recreation benefits include attracting new businesses and providing youth opportunities. Another interesting result is that rural and city communities value mental health as a benefit of recreation.

Table 76. Benefits of Parks, Recreation and Open Space – Providers

Providers' Level of Agreement with Benefit Statement	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	Mean
<i>"Parks, recreation areas and open space benefit my area because they . . ."</i>	1	2	3	4	5	
Promote a healthy lifestyle through physical activity	1%	0%	8.6%	26.7%	63.8%	4.5
Enhances opportunities for family interaction	0%	1%	5.7%	23.8%	69.5%	4.6
Make cities and regions better places to live	0%	0%	4.9%	20.4%	74.8%	4.7
Provide constructive activities for youth	0%	5.7%	5.7%	32.4%	56.2%	4.4
Increase community pride	0%	0%	11.4%	27.6%	61%	4.5
Promote mental health	0%	1%	9.5%	25.7%	63.8%	4.5
Protect natural and cultural resources	0%	1.9%	6.7%	22.9%	68.6%	4.6
Increase property values	3.9%	5.9%	14.7%	28.4%	47.1%	4.1
Attract tourists to the region	1.9%	1%	9.6%	32.7%	54.8%	4.4
Educate people about the environment	1%	4.8%	8.6%	34.3%	51.4%	4.3
Attract new businesses	5.7%	5.7%	16.2%	37.1%	35.2%	3.9

PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Public Survey

This survey item asked respondents to rate how often they currently participate in 22 different outdoor recreation activities (Table 77). In addition, they were asked if they will participate more, less, or the same in these activities over the next five years.

The future increase column on the far right of the table shows the percentage of respondents indicating they will participate in the activity *more* in the next five years in Arizona. There is no information presented for decreases or constants (*less* or *same*), as there were negligible amounts (1-4%) of respondents indicating that future participation will decrease.

Participation rates for the 22 activity categories listed below should be viewed as averages for Arizona and its regions. These averages help recreation providers and land managers gauge Arizona residents' current level of participation in various outdoor recreation activities, as well as help predict the future participation levels, or demands, for these activities.

Outdoor Recreation Categories			
1	Play a sport such as baseball, football, soccer, tennis, golf, swimming in a pool	12	Participate in a water activity where a motor was used such as motor boating, water skiing, jet skiing
2	Participate in an outdoor activity that requires being on your feet such as hiking, jogging, backpacking	13	Go to a dog park
3	Go driving in a motorized vehicle on maintained roads for recreational purposes such as sightseeing or driving for pleasure	14	Go target shooting (rifle, pistol, shotgun)
4	Go riding on something that does not have a motor such as bicycling, mountain biking, or horseback riding	15	Participate in a winter activity such as skiing, sledding, playing in the snow
5	Visit a natural or cultural feature such as a park, botanical garden, scenic feature or archaeological site	16	Participate in a nature study or environmental education activity
6	Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	17	Go tent camping
7	Attend an outdoor event such as a sporting event, concert, or festival	18	Go RV camping
8	Go picnicking	19	Go hunting
9	Go off-road driving in a recreational motorized vehicle such as an ATV, dirt bike, snowmobile, or 4-wheel drive vehicle	20	Go rock or wall climbing
10	Participate in a water activity that does not involve anything with a motor such as kayaking, canoeing, tubing, sailing, or swimming in a lake or stream	21	Participate in an extreme sport such as BMX bike racing, snowboarding, rock crawling
11	Go fishing	22	Go geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)

Table 77. Outdoor Recreation Participation Rates—Public Statewide

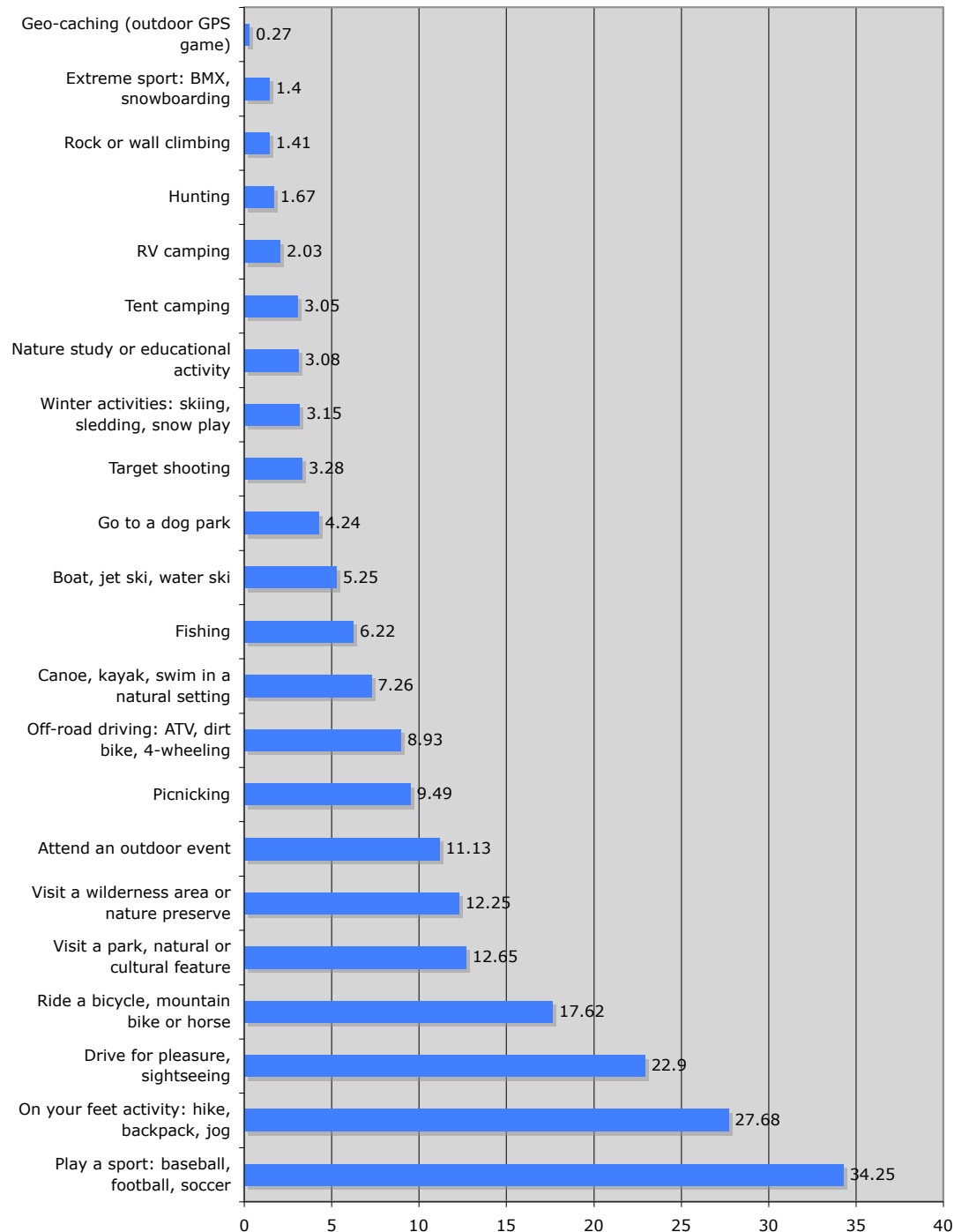
Current Participation Rate	Not at all	Once a year	Few times a year	Once a month	Once a week	Twice a week	Mean # of days/visits/year	Percent who say use will increase
<i>Average Number of Days per calendar year</i>	0	1	5	12	52	130		
Recreation Category	No Use	Low Use	Moderate Use		High Use			%
Play a sport: baseball, football	34.7%	3.2%	16.2%	12.6%	14.7%	18.7%	34.25	33.7%
Participate in outdoor activity on your feet: hike, jog, backpack	25.3%	7.4%	23.7%	19.1%	9.9%	14.6%	27.68	38.4%
Driving in motorized vehicle for sightseeing, pleasure	16.3%	5.9%	29.7%	26.3%	13.1%	8.7%	22.9	34.1%
Riding on something non-motorized: bicycle, mountain bike, horse	50.9%	5.4%	17.2%	10.7%	6.5%	9.3%	17.62	36.5%
Visit a natural or cultural feature: park, arch. site	15%	14.3%	42.3%	17.9%	6.6%	3.7%	12.65	47.9%
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	25.5%	14.7%	35.1%	14.7%	5.5%	4.4%	12.25	47.4%
Attend an outdoor event: sporting, concert, festival	27.2%	13.2%	34.9%	15.8%	5.4%	3.5%	11.13	48.6%
Picnicking	22.6%	6.9%	39.7%	16.6%	4.6%	1.8%	9.49	40.6%
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	67%	4.3%	12.3%	8.4%	4.1%	3.9%	8.93	24.1%
Participate in non-motorized water activity: canoe, swim	55%	8.9%	22.2%	8.1%	3%	2.7%	7.26	33.2%
Fishing	65.6%	7%	15%	6.6%	3.6%	2.1%	6.22	33.3%
Participate in motorized water activity: boat, water ski, jet ski	70.7%	6%	13.7%	5.1%	2.5%	2%	5.25	30.3%
Go to a dog park	82.2%	4.3%	6.1%	3.2%	2.4%	1.8%	4.24	18.2%
Target shooting	74.8%	4.6%	12.3%	5.3%	2.3%	0.6%	3.28	17.9%
Participate in winter activity: skiing, sledding, snow play	62.3%	13.6%	19.9%	2.2%	1%	1%	3.15	31.3%
Nature study/ environmental education activity	66.8%	11.7%	15.4%	4%	1.3%	0.8%	3.08	34%
Tent camping	66.5%	8.2%	17.8%	5.5%	1.4%	0.5%	3.05	32%
RV camping	75.7%	4.6%	14%	4.8%	0.7%	0.3%	2.03	25.6%
Hunting	88.7%	3.5%	4.3%	2.2%	0.7%	0.6%	1.67	10.9%
Rock or wall climbing	86%	5%	5.4%	2.5%	0.9%	0.3%	1.41	15%
Participate in an extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	91.7%	2.3%	3.5%	1.5%	0.4%	0.6%	1.4	9.6%
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	95.8%	1.6%	1.9%	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.27	16.7%

The question for recreation participation was asked in terms of number of times (not at all, once a year, a few times a year, once a month, once a week, twice a week or more). In order to create a numeric response for comparison, these six responses were reclassified into *number of times per year*.

These numbers were averaged in a *mean number of days or visits* spent by each Arizonan on outdoor recreation activities during the past year (Figure 29).

Several of the activities show at least some level of participation by 75% or greater of residents, such as hiking, picnicking, visiting a park or museum, and driving for pleasure. A few of the activities show at least some level of participation by half of Arizonans, such as playing sports, bike riding, visiting a nature preserve or wilderness area, and attending an outdoor event. Most activities are participated in by less than half of all Arizonans, and several by less than 20%.

Figure 29. Mean Number of Days/Visits Spent on Outdoor Recreation Activities in Past Twelve Months



Another key factor to consider when planning for facilities or staffing and management needs, is the *frequency or level of use* of participation. While 20% to 30% of the population may participate in a particular activity in a given year, maybe 8% does this activity at least one or two times a week (52-130 or more times a year). This frequency rate may result in a greater number of people (recreation days) on the ground than for another activity that more people may participate in but they may do so only occasionally.

For example, comparing the figures for *riding a bike/horse* to *canoeing/kayaking* from Tables 77 and 78, both activity categories show that 49% and 45%, respectively, of Arizona's population have participated at least once in these activities in the past year—very similar percentages. However, when you factor in the frequency or level of use (Figure 30), the number of recreation user days (Table 78) for each activity category is widely different—106,512,636 user days for *riding a bike/horse*, compared to 43,886,591 user days for *canoeing/kayaking*.

In general, playing sports, outdoor activities requiring the use of feet (e.g., hiking, backpacking, running), and sightseeing/pleasure driving were the top three activities in terms of number of participation times per calendar year. All three of these activities received more than 20 days of use, on average, per year. Activities receiving the least levels of participation in terms of mean number of participation times per calendar year include geo-caching (a GPS-based treasure hunting activity), extreme sports, rock climbing, hunting, and RV and tent camping. These activities' mean values are two times or less per year.

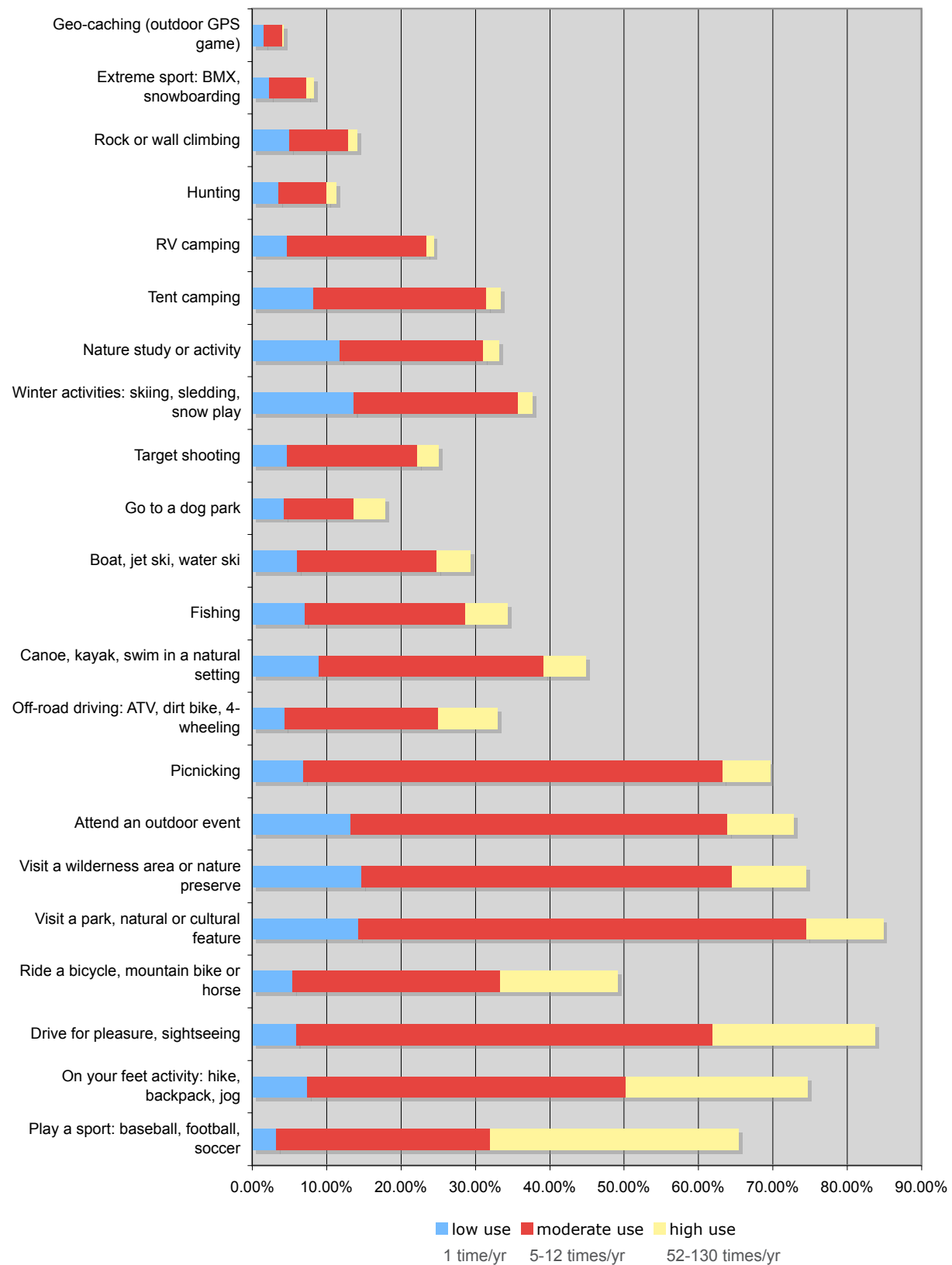
It is worth mentioning that certain recreation activities like hunting, RV camping, tent camping, and seasonal activities such as winter and water sports are not as accessible year round as other activities.

Figure 30 reflects the percentage of Arizonans, divided into high, moderate and low use, participating in outdoor recreation activities during the past twelve months. High use equates to those who said they participate in an activity once or twice a week (at least 52-130 times a year), moderate use equates to a few times a year to once a month (approximately 5-12 times a year), and low use equates to once a year.



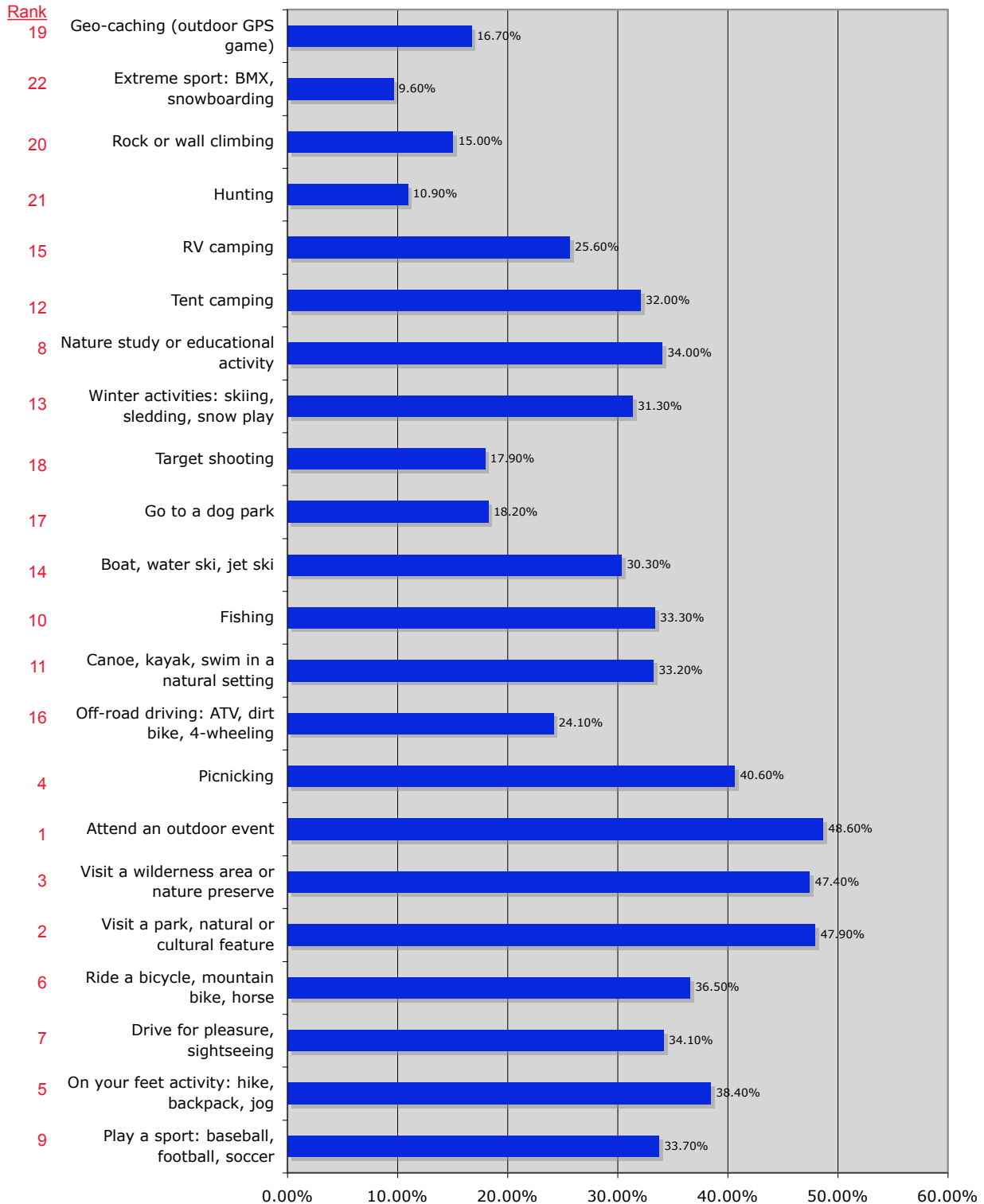
*Tent camping
along the north
rim of the Grand
Canyon.*

Figure 30. Annual Activity Participation Percentages by Level of Use: Low, Moderate and High Use — Public Statewide



Respondents were asked how much they thought they would participate in a particular activity in the next five years in Arizona. Figure 31 shows the percentage that said they would participate **more** in a particular activity than they did in the past 12 months. Most remaining percentages were for those who said participation would be the **same**; only 1-4% said use would be **less**.

Figure 31. Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities—Public



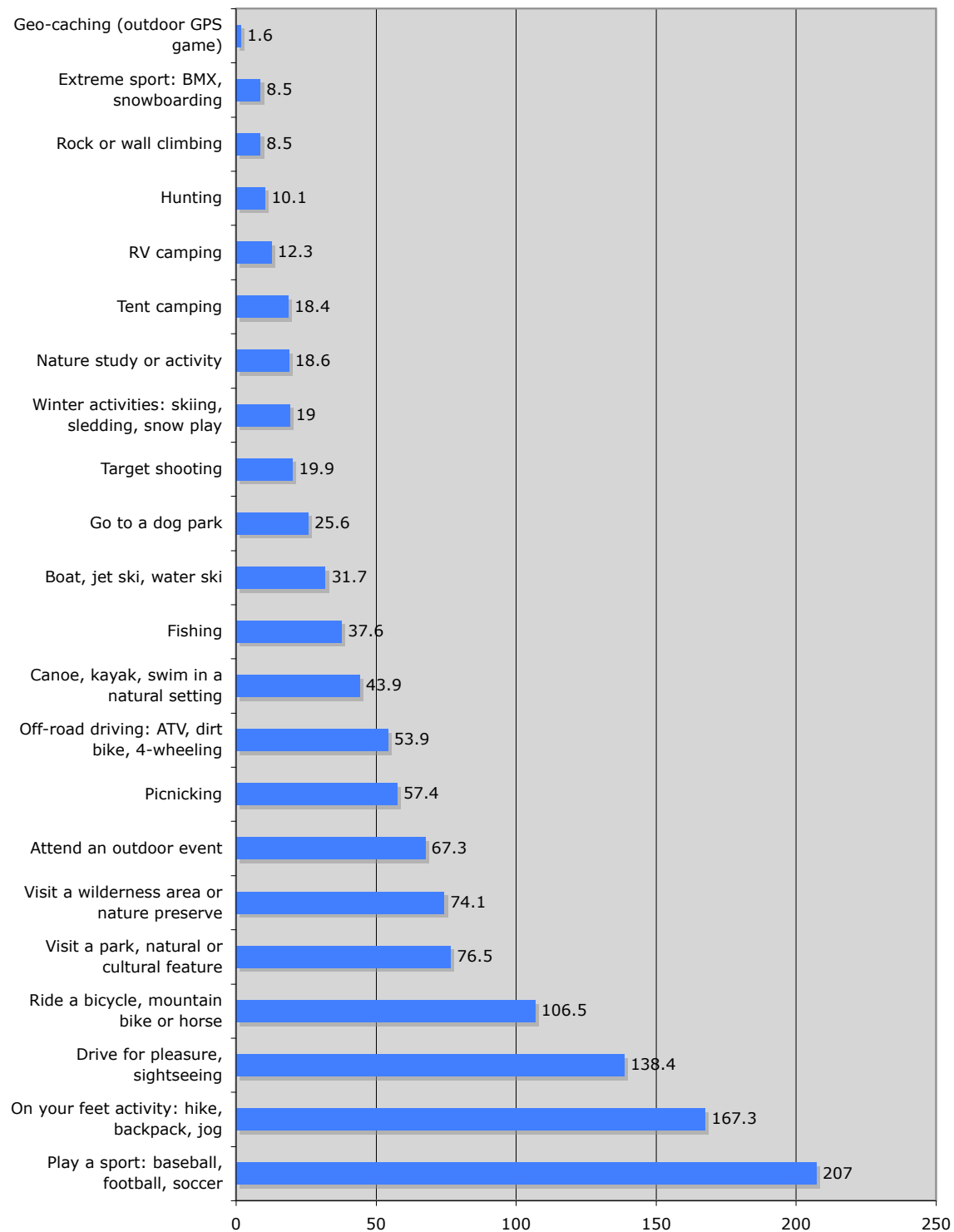
Recreation User Days (or visits) is a planning tool used by recreation planners and managers and can provide them with a general sense of how many people participate in a particular recreation activity, and can also help estimate the extent of potential impacts to a user's experience (crowding, conflicts, access) and to the resources (natural and cultural resources, facilities, staffing) required to conduct or participate in the activity. The mean number of days/visits is calculated from the number of times people said they participated in an activity, averaging those who said they participate once a year, a few times a year, to twice or more a week (Table 78, Figure 32). This number is only an average and does not provide information on who is recreating, the frequency of an individual's participation, or the geographical location or seasonality of participation.

For example, participation in winter sports in Arizona only occurs at the higher elevations and only if there is sufficient snow on the ground, usually not in the desert and not all year long. Many people like to tent camp and do so all year long, camping in the mountains in the summer and moving to the desert in the winter. To participate in big game hunting, a hunter's application must be drawn to receive one of the limited permits for their desired game species and they can only hunt in certain locations during a specified hunting season. Other activities can be done all year and statewide, but require a specific resource, such as a ball field, fishing lake, hiking trail, OHV route or rock wall/cliff suitable for climbing.

Table 78. Recreation User Days/Visits – Public Statewide

Recreation Activity	% of Arizonans Participating	Mean # of days or visits	# of Recreation User Days or visits/year	# of People Recreating/day or visit
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	65.3%	34.25	207,040,736	567,235
On your feet activity: hike, backpack, jog	74.7%	27.68	167,325,185	458,425
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing	83.7%	22.90	138,430,156	379,261
Ride a bicycle, mountain bike or horse	49.1%	17.62	106,512,636	291,815
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	85%	12.65	76,469,060	209,504
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	74.5%	12.25	74,051,066	202,879
Attend an outdoor event	72.8%	11.13	67,280,683	184,331
Picnicking	77.4%	9.49	57,366,907	157,169
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	33%	8.93	53,981,716	147,895
Canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	45%	7.26	43,886,591	120,237
Fishing	34.4%	6.22	37,599,807	103,013
Boat, jet ski, water ski	29.3%	5.25	31,736,171	86,948
Go to a dog park	17.8%	4.24	25,630,736	70,221
Target shooting	25.2%	3.28	19,827,551	54,322
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	37.7%	3.15	19,041,703	52,169
Nature study or educational activity	33.2%	3.08	18,618,554	51,010
Tent camping	33.5%	3.05	18,437,204	50,153
RV camping	24.3%	2.03	12,271,319	33,620
Hunting	11.3%	1.67	10,095,125	27,658
Rock or wall climbing	14%	1.41	8,523,429	23,352
Extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	8.3%	1.4	8,462,979	23,186
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	4.2%	0.27	1,632,146	4,472

Figure 32. Statewide Recreation User Days or Visits per Year by Activity (in millions)



The phone survey used in this study asked people how many times or visits (not days) last year they participated in an activity; each time category was assigned an average number of days (i.e., once a week=52 days per year). In most instances, the mean number can be used to estimate the number of days people participated in an activity, but for some activities, such as tent or RV camping, it refers to the number of times people participated, which may include several days in one visit. For the purposes of this study, the tables will refer to number of recreation user days, which may be an underestimate in some cases. Recreation user days per year takes Arizona's population (or the population of a particular COG) multiplied by the mean number of days per activity. The percent listed as participating refers to the percent of the population who participated in that activity at least once or more in the past year.

Cross tabulations of recreation participation by COG regions reveal few differences among the ranks of recreation activities (Table 79).

Table 79. Comparison of Outdoor Recreation Participation by COG – Public

Region/COG	CAAG	MAG	NACOG	PAG	SEAGO	WACOG	State
Recreation Category	Mean # of days						
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	36.16	41.46	26.43	35.06	21.38	35.05	34.25
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hiking, jogging, backpacking	28.55	25.01	34.7	28.95	27.55	23.18	27.68
Driving in a motorized vehicle on maintained roads for sightseeing, pleasure	25.64	16.69	34.01	16.19	25.85	27.84	22.9
Riding on something non-motorized: bicycle, mountain bike, horse	18.73	18.27	18.28	19.84	11.77	15.84	17.62
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	11.9	11.98	16.35	12.31	13.43	10.37	12.65
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	15.81	7.74	20.92	10.91	11.33	11.6	12.25
Attend an outdoor event: concert, festival, sports event	10.14	10.86	14.13	11.27	7.28	11.21	11.13
Picnicking	10.5	7.21	10.47	8.19	9.25	13.78	9.49
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	14.26	4.02	15.21	6.23	7.25	12.77	8.93
Participate in a non-motorized water activity: canoe, kayak, swim	4.79	5.62	7.93	3.86	6.07	15.94	7.26
Fishing	4.46	5.1	7.74	4.1	5.77	10.57	6.22
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, jet ski, water ski	3.46	3.43	3.53	2.43	2.15	16.79	5.25
Go to a dog park	3.99	4.82	5.44	4.53	0.73	3.85	4.24
Target shooting	4.47	1.21	4.99	3.67	5.19	2.93	3.28
Participate in a winter activity: skiing, sledding	2.11	2.37	9.52	1.79	1.87	1.01	3.15
Nature study or environmental education activity	2.12	2.17	5.28	3.15	1.85	3.6	3.08
Tent camping	3.98	2.41	6.62	1.61	3.22	1.72	3.05
RV camping	1.84	1.73	1.99	2.03	1.96	2.75	2.03
Hunting	3.33	0.73	3.23	1.09	0.34	2.37	1.67
Rock or wall climbing	2.55	0.88	2.28	0.59	0.98	2.14	1.41
Participate in an extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	0.48	0.69	3.4	0.52	0.47	2.82	1.4
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	0.22	0.12	0.17	0.35	0.3	0.54	0.27

Playing a sport maintains its top ranking position as the activity receiving the most recreation participation per calendar year for all COG regions, except NACOG and SEAGO, where sports falls third to outdoor foot-based recreation like hiking and motorized pleasure driving on maintained roads. This is likely caused by factors such as winter weather causing sports teams to assume a seasonal schedule and the rural nature of these two districts compared to the greater abundance of sports leagues in the more urban regions.

NACOG boasts the highest mean number of days for nine recreation categories, notably for on-foot activities such as hiking and backpacking, visiting wilderness areas, off-road driving, and winter sports such as skiing and sledding. Northern Arizona has a considerable wealth of forested mountains with abundant trails and recreation areas, as well as access to several large lakes and reservoirs. WACOG has the highest mean number of days for five categories, notably for both motorized and non-motorized water activities such as boating, canoeing, and fishing. WACOG is bordered by Arizona's largest waterway, the Colorado River with its many lakes and backwaters, which attracts both residents and visitors alike to enjoy the water-based recreation opportunities available year-round. More than half (60%) of all boaters who flock to the Colorado River to recreate come from California (Behavior Research Center, 2006).

More than 40% of respondents stated participation in outdoor events, visiting cultural and natural features, visiting wilderness areas and picnicking will increase in Arizona over the next five years. These activities received varying levels of future percent increases among COG regions, but remained relatively high. CAAG, MAG, and SEAGO respondents rated that nature study/environmental education related recreation activities will increase at levels higher than the overall average value for future increase of that activity.

A closer look at the mean days and the percentage of people within each region participating in particular recreation activities leads to questions to explain the regional differences. Some are logical when examining the geological and hydrological features within each region, such as the abundance of high mountains in northern Arizona that provide opportunities for winter/snow activities (skiing, sledding, snow play) and the presence of large bodies of water in western Arizona (Colorado River and associated lakes) that provide opportunities for both motorized and nonmotorized water activities (boating, water skiing, jet skiing, canoeing, kayaking, tubing, swimming in a natural setting). There are also noticeable differences between the large urban centers, such as MAG and PAG, and the more rural areas.

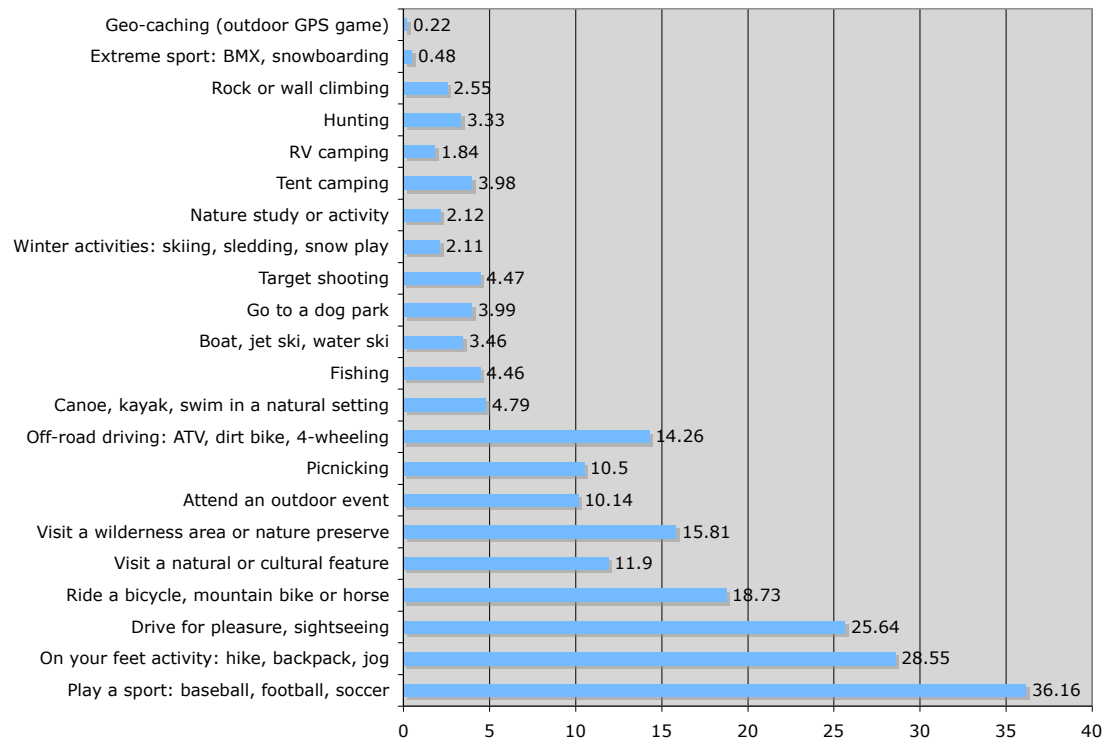
Some other noticeable regional differences lead to questions, such as “Are people in a particular region not recreating as much because there are inadequate facilities or resources available or do they simply not prefer the activity?” “Does age, having young children, or cultural differences play a major role in choosing activities?” Determining the reasons for exceptionally high or low participation in a region (compared to the statewide level) can help assist recreation managers in better providing the desired facilities and programs for their communities.

The next few tables and figures show participation rates, mean number of days, and recreation user days for each of the six regional COGs.

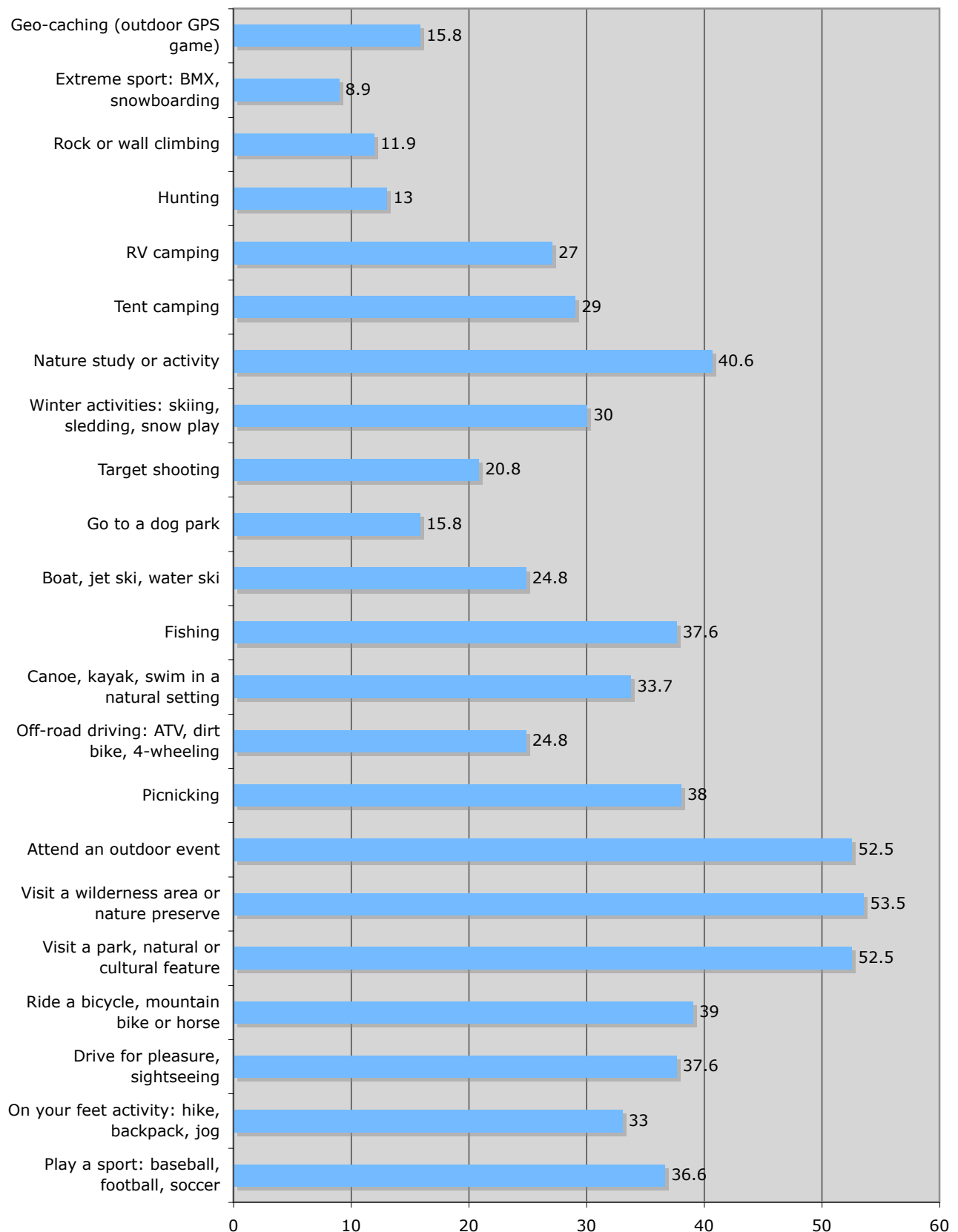
Central Arizona Association of Governments—CAAG
(includes Gila and Pinal Counties)
Outdoor Recreation Participation Data

Table 80. Outdoor Recreation Participation - CAAG

CAAG	Not at all		Once		A few times		Once a month		Once a week		Twice a week		Mean	Percent who say use will increase
<i>Number of days per calendar year</i>	0		1		5		12		52		130			%
Activity	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		%
Play a sport	36.6	37	3	3	16.8	17	10.9	11	10.9	11	21.8	22	36.16	36.6
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike, jog	32.7	33	0	0	19.8	20	23.8	24	7.9	8	15.8	16	28.55	33
Drive a motorized vehicle for pleasure on maintained roads- sightseeing	15.8	16	4	4	23.8	24	29.7	30	17.8	18	8.9	9	25.64	37.6
Riding something nonmotorized: bike, horse	50.5	51	6.9	7	12.9	13	12.9	13	6.9	7	9.9	10	18.73	39
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	15.8	16	7.9	8	45.5	46	23.8	24	3	3	4	4	11.9	52.5
Visit a wilderness area	29	29	6	6	33	33	20	20	5	5	7	7	15.81	53.5
Attend an outdoor event	35.6	36	9.9	10	33.7	34	13.9	14	3	3	4	4	10.14	52.5
Picnicking	32.7	33	5	5	30.7	31	22.8	23	6.9	7	2	2	10.5	38
Off-road driving	66.3	67	4	4	4	4	13.9	14	4	4	7.9	8	14.26	24.8
Participate in a non-motorized water activity: canoe, swim	52.5	53	6.9	7	24.8	25	11.9	12	4	4	0	0	4.79	33.7
Fishing	68.3	69	5	5	10.9	11	12.9	13	2	2	1	1	4.46	37.6
Participate in a motorized water activity: boating, ski	73.3	74	4	4	12.9	13	5.9	6	4	4	0	0	3.46	24.8
Go to a dog park	86.1	87	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	1	1	3.99	15.8
Target shooting	63.4	64	7.9	8	14.9	15	8.9	9	5	5	0	0	4.47	20.8
Participate in a winter activity: skiing	60.4	61	11.9	12	24.8	25	2	2	1	1	0	0	2.11	30
Nature study or environmental education activity	63.4	64	7.9	8	25.7	26	2	2	1	1	0	0	2.12	40.6
Tent camping	67.3	68	3	3	16.8	17	10.9	11	1	1	1	1	3.98	29
RV camping	68.3	69	4	4	21.8	22	5.9	6	0	0	0	0	1.84	27
Hunting	84.2	85	3	3	3	3	6.9	7	2	2	1	1	3.33	13
Rock or wall climbing	82.1	87	2.8	3	4.7	5	3.8	4	0.9	1	0.9	1	2.55	11.9
Participate in an extreme sport: BMX	93.1	94	2	2	2	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	0.48	8.9
Geo-caching	94.1	95	2	2	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.22	15.8

Figure 33. Mean Number of Days Spent on Outdoor Recreation Activities - CAAG**Table 81. Recreation User Days - CAAG**

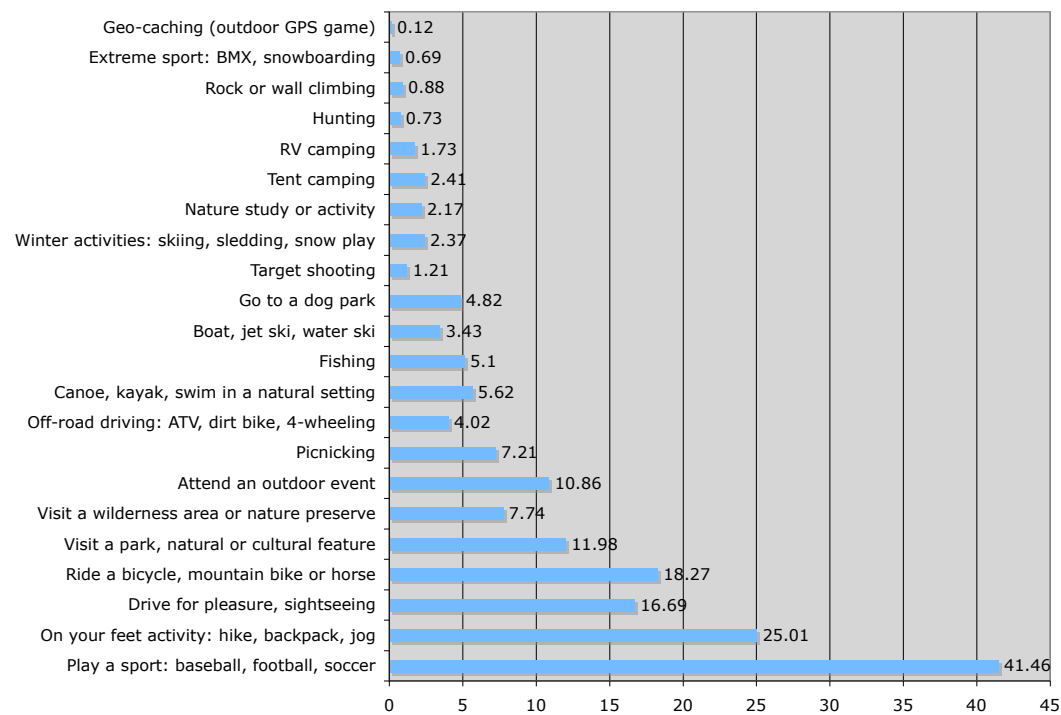
CAAG - Recreation Activity	% of CAAG Participating	Mean # of Days	# of Recreation User Days/year	# of People Recreating/day
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	63.4%	36.16	10,887,957	29,830
On your feet activity: hike, backpack, jog	67.3%	28.55	8,596,548	23,552
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing	84.2%	25.64	7,720,332	21,151
Ride a bicycle, mountain bike or horse	49.5%	18.73	5,639,697	15,451
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	84.2%	11.9	3,583,149	9,817
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	71%	15.81	4,760,470	13,042
Attend an outdoor event	64.4%	10.14	3,053,205	8,365
Picnicking	67.3%	10.5	3,161,602	8,662
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	33.7%	14.26	4,293,757	11,764
Canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	47.5%	4.79	1,442,293	3,951
Fishing	31.7%	4.46	1,342,928	3,679
Boat, jet ski, water ski	26.7%	3.46	1,041,823	2,854
Go to a dog park	13.9%	3.99	1,201,409	3,291
Target shooting	36.6%	4.47	1,345,939	3,687
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	39.6%	2.11	635,331	1,741
Nature study or educational activity	36.6%	2.12	638,343	1,749
Tent camping	32.7%	3.98	1,198,398	3,283
RV camping	31.7%	1.84	554,033	1,518
Hunting	15.8%	3.33	1,002,679	2,747
Rock or wall climbing	17.9%	2.55	767,818	2,104
Extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	6.9%	0.48	144,530	396
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	5.9%	0.22	66,243	181

Figure 34. Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities—CAAG Percentages

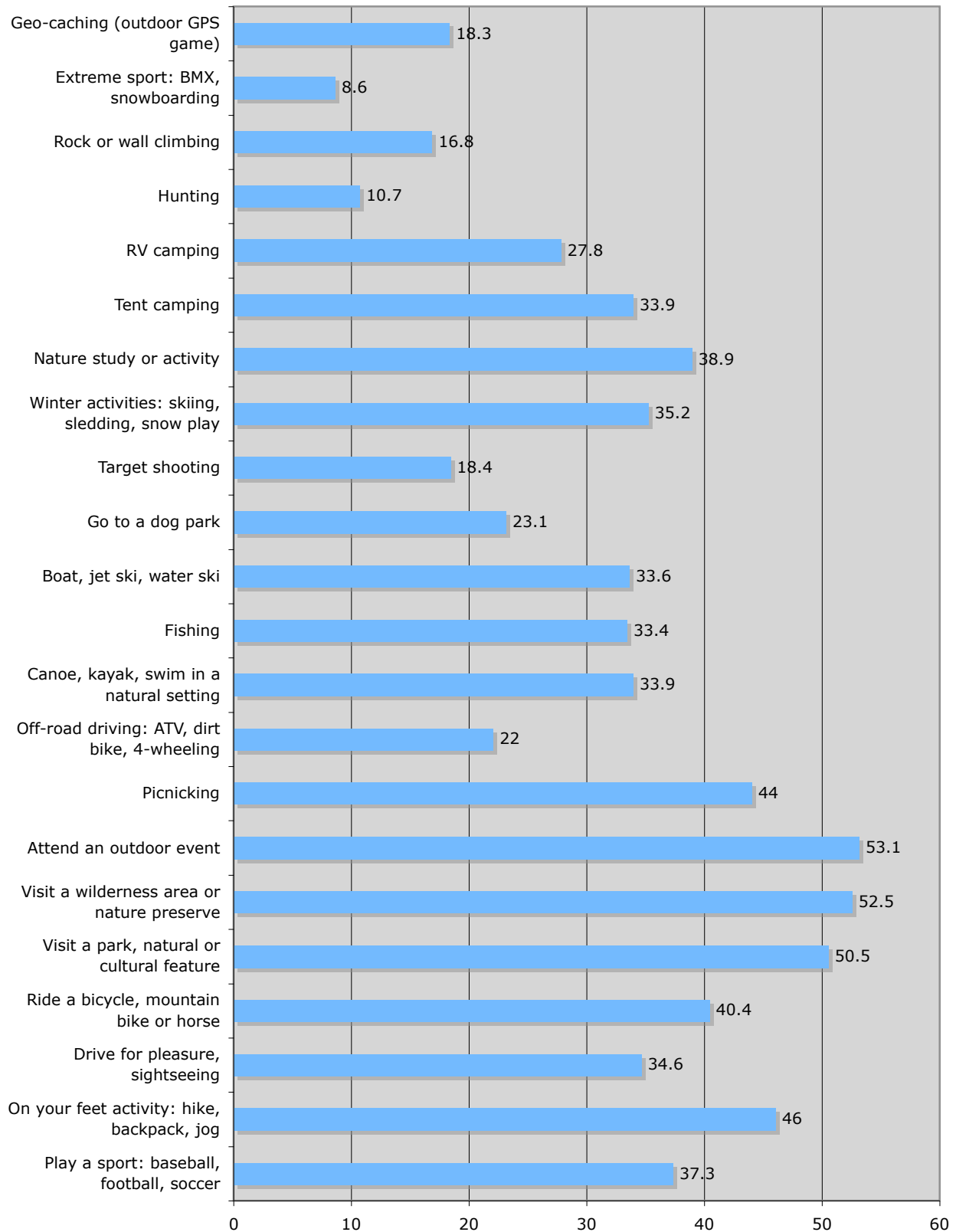
Maricopa Association of Governments—MAG
(includes Maricopa County)
Outdoor Recreation Participation Data

Table 82. Outdoor Recreation Participation - MAG

MAG	Not at all		Once		A few times		Once a month		Once a week		Twice a week			Percent who say use will increase
<i>Number of days per calendar year</i>	0		1		5		12		52		130			
Activity	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	%
Play a sport	24.5	80	3.7	12	16.2	53	13.8	45	19.9	65	22	72	41.46	37.3
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike, jog	23.7	84	9.3	33	19.7	70	20	71	7.3	26	12.1	43	25.01	46
Driving in a motorized vehicle for pleasure on maintained roads-sightseeing	16.8	55	6.7	22	35.5	116	25.7	84	10.4	34	4.9	16	16.69	34.6
Riding something nonmotorized: bike, horse	45.1	160	4.5	16	18.9	67	9.3	33	5.1	18	9.3	33	18.27	40.4
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	13.8	45	18	59	41.6	136	17.4	57	5.5	18	3.7	12	11.98	50.5
Visit a wilderness area	29.1	95	16.3	53	37.4	122	11.7	38	3.7	12	1.8	6	7.74	52.5
Attend an outdoor event	22.6	74	13.5	44	41	134	14.7	48	4.9	16	3.4	11	10.86	53.1
Picnicking	26.3	86	11.3	37	43.7	143	13.8	45	4	13	0.9	3	7.21	44
Off-road driving	76.5	250	4	13	11.3	37	4.6	15	2.4	8	1.2	4	4.02	22
Participate in s non-motorized water activity: canoe, swim	55	180	8.9	29	24.5	80	6.7	22	3.7	12	1.2	4	5.62	33.9
Fishing	72.2	236	7.3	24	11.6	38	4.6	15	2.1	7	2.1	7	5.1	33.4
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, ski	74.6	244	4.6	15	15	49	3.4	11	1.2	4	1.2	4	3.43	33.6
Go to a dog park	76.5	250	6.1	20	8.6	28	4.3	14	2.8	9	1.8	6	4.82	23.1
Target shooting	85	278	4	13	7.3	24	2.8	9	0.9	3	0	0	1.21	18.4
Participate in winter activity: skiing, sled	58	206	12.7	45	20	71	0.3	1	0.6	2	0.6	2	2.37	35.2
Nature study or environmental education activity	71.3	233	12.8	42	11.9	39	2.8	9	0.6	2	0.6	2	2.17	38.9
Tent camping	73.1	239	8	26	13.1	43	4	13	1.5	5	0.3	1	2.41	33.9
RV camping	77.1	252	5.2	17	11.6	38	5.2	17	0.9	3	0	0	1.73	27.8
Hunting	93	304	2.8	9	2.4	8	0	0	0	0	1.5	5	0.73	10.7
Rock or wall climbing	89	291	4.6	15	4.3	14	1.2	4	0.9	3	0	0	0.88	16.8
Participate in an extreme sport	93	304	1.5	5	3.4	11	1.5	5	0.6	2	0	0	0.69	8.6
Geo-caching	96.6	316	1.8	6	1.2	4	0.3	1	0	0	0	0	0.12	18.3

Figure 35. Mean Number of Days Spent on Outdoor Recreation Activities - MAG**Table 83. Recreation User Days - MAG**

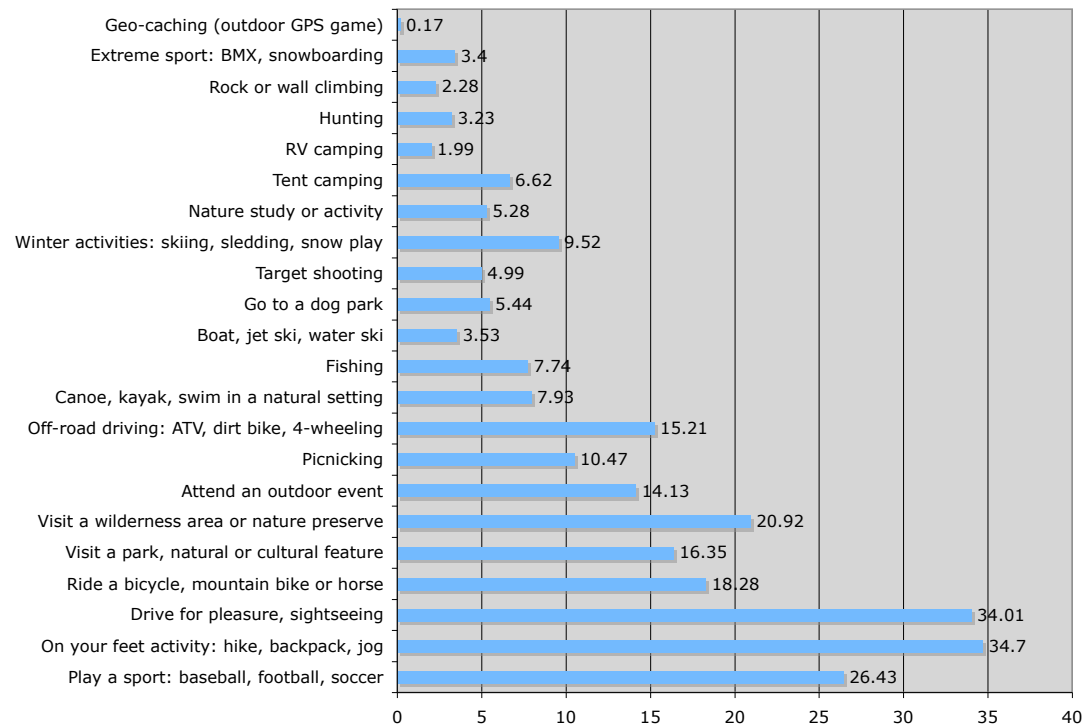
Recreation Activity	% of MAG Participating	Mean # of Days	# of Recreation User Days/year	# of People Recreating/day
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	75.5%	41.46	151,268,676	414,435
On your feet activity: hike, backpack, jog	76.3%	25.01	91,250,110	250,000
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing	83.2%	16.69	60,894,216	166,833
Ride a bicycle, mountain bike or horse	54.9%	18.27	66,658,917	182,627
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	86.2%	11.98	43,709,569	119,752
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	70.9%	7.74	28,239,738	77,369
Attend an outdoor event	77.4%	10.86	39,623,199	108,557
Picnicking	73.7%	7.21	26,306,009	72,071
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	23.5%	4.02	14,667,151	40,184
Canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	45%	5.62	20,504,823	56,177
Fishing	27.8%	5.1	18,607,579	50,979
Boat, jet ski, water ski	25.4%	3.43	12,514,509	34,286
Go to a dog park	23.5%	4.82	17,585,987	48,181
Target shooting	15%	1.21	4,414,739	12,095
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	42%	2.37	8,647,052	23,690
Nature study or educational activity	28.7%	2.17	7,917,343	21,691
Tent camping	26.9%	2.41	8,792,993	24,090
RV camping	22.9%	1.73	6,311,983	17,293
Hunting	7%	0.73	2,663,438	7,297
Rock or wall climbing	11%	0.88	3,210,719	8,796
Extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	7%	0.69	2,517,496	6,897
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	3.4%	0.12	437,825	1,199

Figure 36. Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities—MAG Percentages

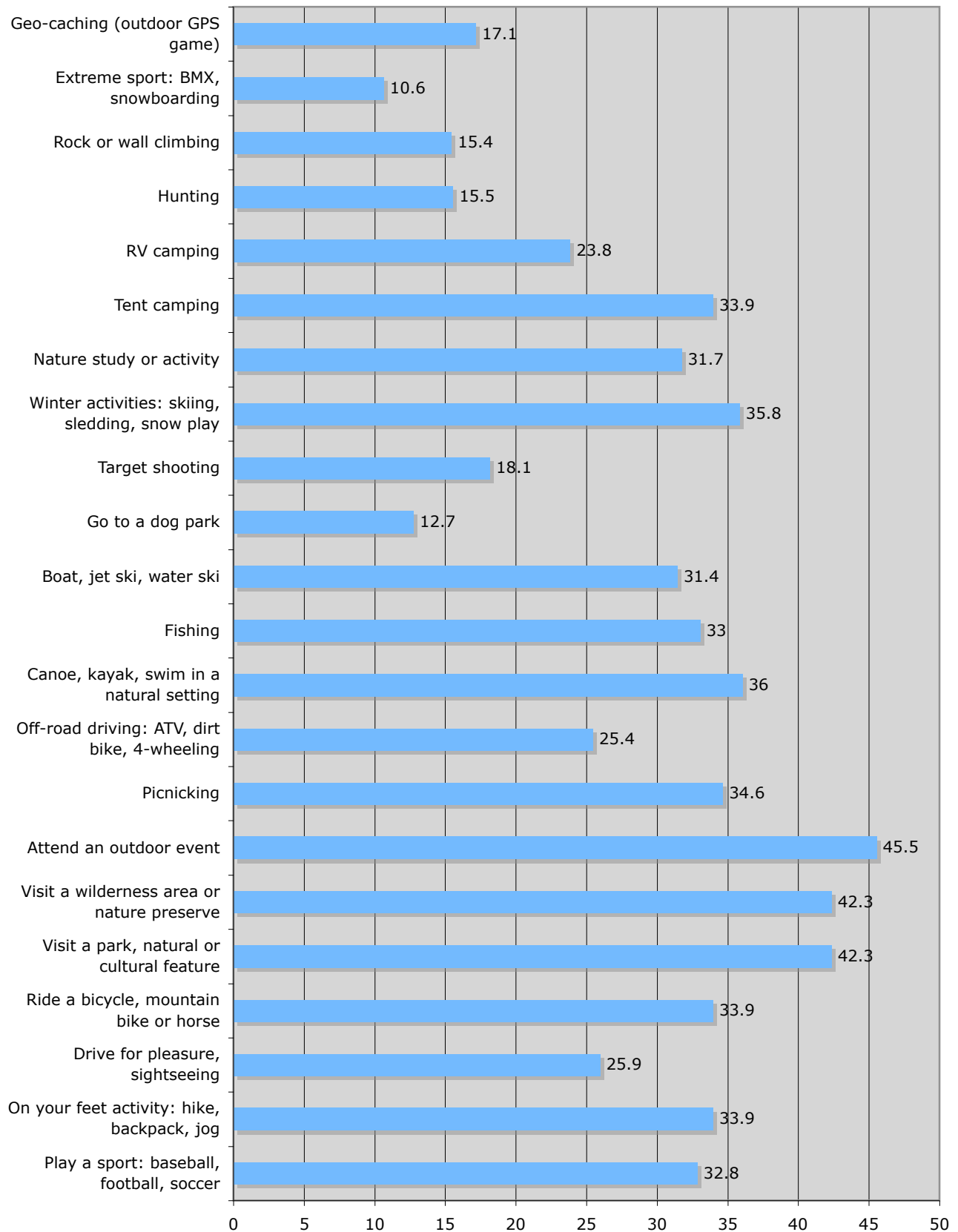
Northern Arizona Council of Governments—NACOG
(includes Apache, Coconino, Navajo and Yavapai Counties)
Outdoor Recreation Participation Data

Table 84. Outdoor Recreation Participation - NACOG

NACOG	Not at all		Once		A few times		Once a month		Once a week		Twice a week		Mean	Percent who say use will increase
<i>Number of days per calendar year</i>	0		1		5		12		52		130			%
Activity	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		
Play a sport	43.1	81	2.7	5	16	30	11.7	22	13.3	25	13.3	25	26.43	32.8
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike	14.8	28	4.2	8	22.8	43	24.9	47	16.4	31	16.9	32	34.7	33.9
Driving in a motorized vehicle for pleasure on maintained roads-sightseeing	10.6	20	3.7	7	23.3	44	28	53	19.6	37	14.8	28	34.01	25.9
Riding on something non-motorized: bike	46.6	88	4.2	8	18	34	13.8	26	9	17	8.5	16	18.28	33.9
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	11.6	22	9	17	44.4	84	19.6	37	10.6	20	4.8	9	16.35	42.3
Visit a wilderness area	16.4	31	11.1	21	30.2	57	23.3	44	10.6	20	8.5	16	20.92	42.3
Attend an outdoor event	24.3	46	14.8	28	30.2	57	18	34	7.9	15	4.8	9	14.13	45.5
Picnicking	21.7	41	5.8	11	41.8	79	21.2	40	8.5	16	1.1	2	10.47	34.6
Off-road driving	53.4	101	5.8	11	17.5	33	10.1	19	5.3	10	7.9	15	15.21	25.4
Participate in a non-motorized water activity	43.9	83	7.9	15	30.2	57	12.7	24	2.6	5	2.6	5	7.93	36
Fishing	57.7	109	5.3	10	19.6	37	10.1	19	5.3	10	2.1	4	7.74	33
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, ski	68.3	129	4.8	9	17.5	33	6.9	13	2.1	4	0.5	1	3.53	31.4
Go to a dog park	85.7	162	3.2	6	4.2	8	3.2	6	0	0	3.7	7	5.44	12.7
Target shooting	66.7	126	6.3	12	14.8	28	7.4	14	3.7	7	1.1	2	4.99	18.1
Participate in a winter activity: ski, sled	41.8	79	12.2	23	31.2	59	6.9	13	4.2	8	3.7	7	9.52	35.8
Nature study or education activity	61.9	117	11.6	22	16.4	31	6.3	12	1.6	3	2.1	4	5.28	31.7
Tent camping	55	104	5.8	11	24.3	46	9	17	4.2	8	1.6	3	6.62	33.9
RV camping	76.2	144	2.6	5	14.3	27	5.8	11	1.1	2	0	0	1.99	23.8
Hunting	80.4	152	5.3	10	9	17	2.1	4	2.1	4	1.1	2	3.23	15.5
Rock or wall climbing	80.4	152	4.8	9	8.5	16	4.8	9	1.1	2	0.5	1	2.28	15.4
Participate in an extreme sport	88.9	168	3.2	6	4.2	8	1.1	2	0.5	1	2.1	4	3.4	10.6
Geo-caching	95.2	180	2.6	5	1.6	3	0.5	1	0	0	0	0	0.17	17.1

Figure 37. Mean Number of Days Spent on Outdoor Recreation Activities - NACOG**Table 85. Recreation User Days - NACOG**

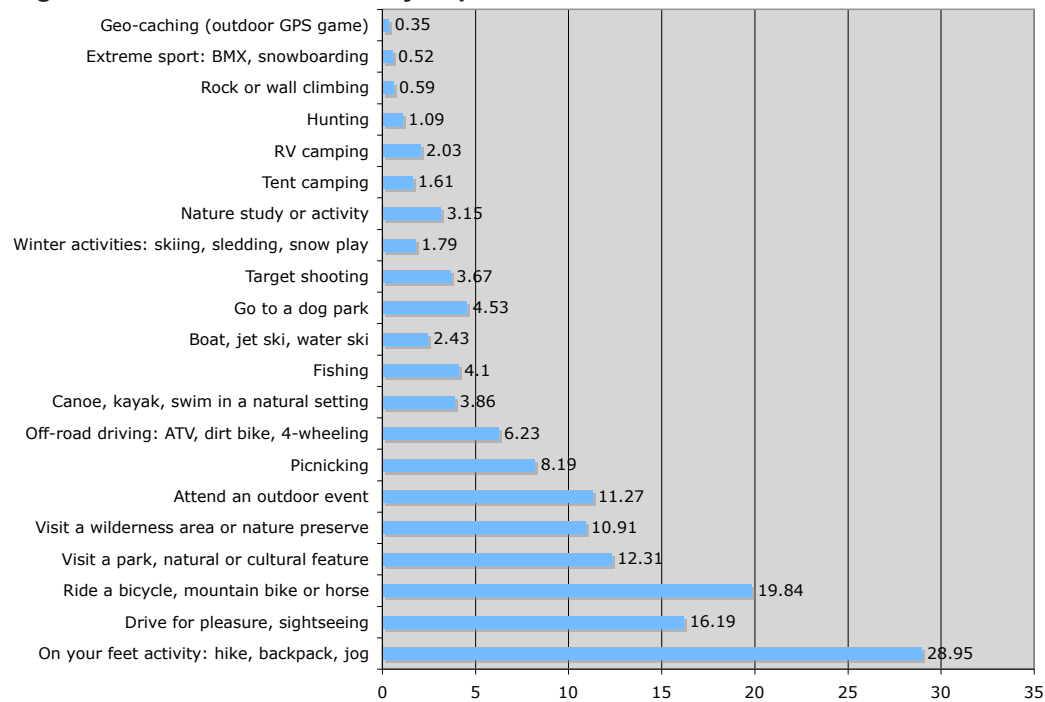
Recreation Activity	% of NACOG Participants	Mean # of Days	# of Recreation User Days/year	# of People Recreating/day
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	56.9%	26.43	13,727,609	37,609
On your feet activity: hike, backpack, jog	85.2%	34.7	18,023,006	49,378
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing	89.4%	34.01	17,664,624	48,396
Ride a bicycle, mountain bike or horse	53.4%	18.28	9,494,541	26,012
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	88.4%	16.35	8,492,108	23,266
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	83.6%	20.92	10,865,743	29,769
Attend an outdoor event, sport, concert	75.7%	14.13	7,339,051	20,107
Picnicking	78.3%	10.47	5,438,066	14,898
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	46.6%	15.21	7,899,998	21,644
Canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	56.1%	7.93	4,118,802	11,284
Fishing	42.3%	7.74	4,020,117	11,014
Boat, jet ski, water ski	31.7%	3.53	1,833,464	5,023
Go to a dog park	14.3%	5.44	2,825,509	7,741
Target shooting	33.3%	4.99	2,591,781	7,102
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	58.2%	9.52	4,944,640	13,547
Nature study or educational activity	38.1%	5.28	2,742,405	7,513
Tent camping	45%	6.62	3,438,395	9,420
RV camping	23.8%	1.99	1,033,596	2,832
Hunting	19.6%	3.23	1,677,646	4,596
Rock or wall climbing	19.6%	2.28	1,184,221	3,244
Extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	8.3%	3.4	1,765,943	4,838
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	4.8%	0.17	88,297	242

Figure 38. Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities—NACOG Percentages

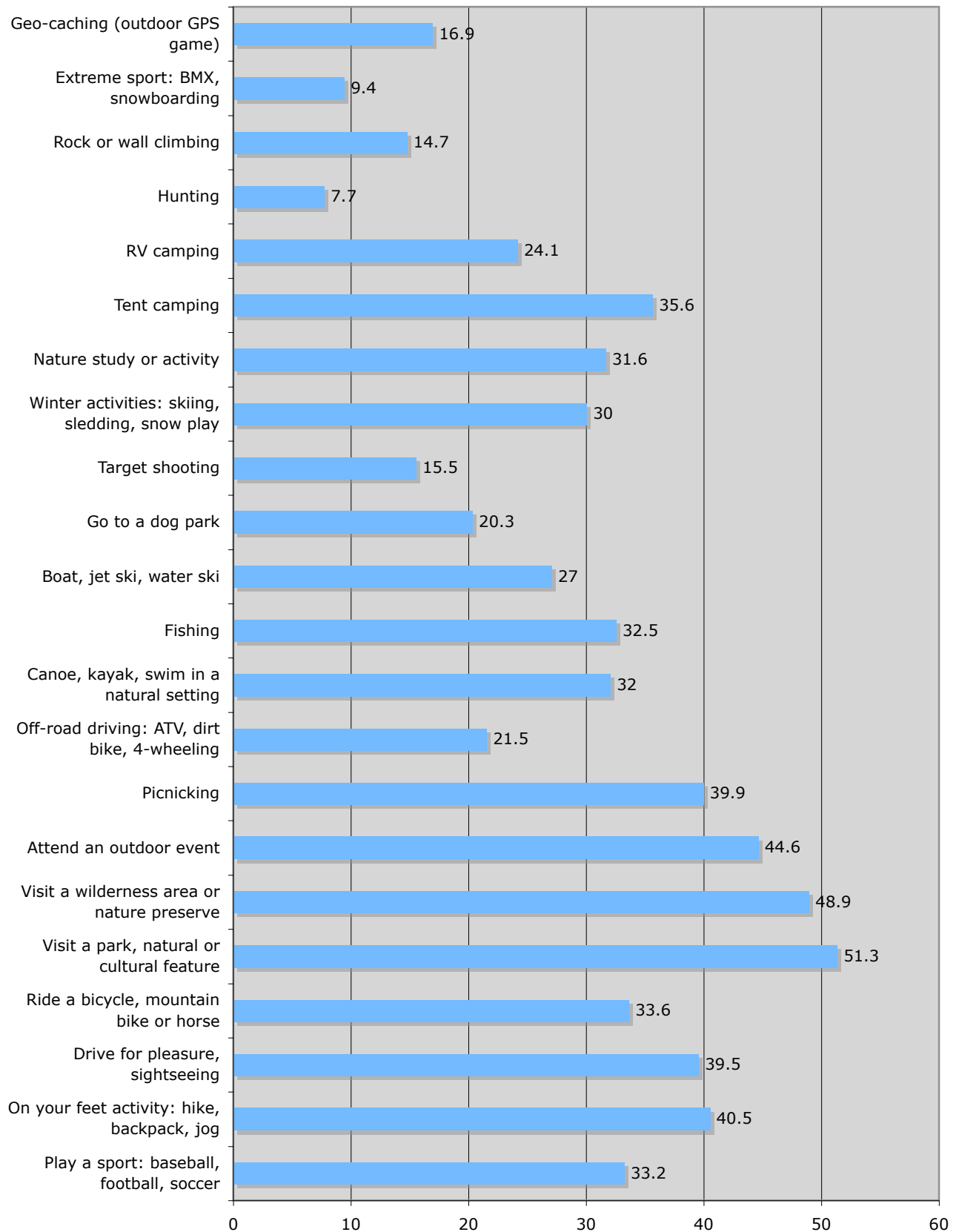
Pima Association of Governments—PAG
(includes Pima County)
Outdoor Recreation Participation Data

Table 86. Outdoor Recreation Participation - PAG

PAG	Not at all		Once		A few times		Once a month		Once a week		Twice a week		Mean	Percent who say use will increase
<i>Number of days per calendar year</i>	0		1		5		12		52		130			
ACTIVITY	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		
Play a sport	32.9	77	3.4	8	15.8	37	15	35	13.2	31	19.7	46	35.06	33.2
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike	21.8	51	5.6	13	32.1	75	15.4	36	9.4	22	15.8	37	28.95	40.5
Driving in a motorized vehicle for pleasure on maintained roads-sightseeing	17.1	40	5.6	13	35	82	28.2	66	9.4	22	4.7	11	16.19	39.5
Riding on something non-motorized: bike	49.6	116	6	14	17.5	41	9.4	22	6.4	15	11.1	26	19.84	33.6
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	13.3	31	11.2	26	45.1	105	20.6	48	6.9	16	3	7	12.31	51.3
Visit a wilderness area	21.9	51	15.9	37	40.3	94	13.3	31	5.2	12	3.4	8	10.91	48.9
Attend an outdoor event	28.2	66	10.3	24	32.9	77	20.1	47	5.1	12	3.4	8	11.27	44.6
Picnicking	21.4	50	6.8	16	45.7	107	21.8	51	3	7	1.3	3	8.19	39.9
Off-road driving	72.6	170	3.8	9	9.8	23	7.7	18	3.8	9	2.1	5	6.23	21.5
Participate in a non-motorized water activity	64.5	151	9.8	23	16.7	39	6.8	16	0.9	2	1.3	3	3.86	32
Fishing	65.8	154	8.1	19	18.8	44	3.4	8	3	7	0.9	2	4.1	32.5
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, ski	76.4	178	9	21	8.6	20	3.9	9	1.7	4	0.4	1	2.43	27
Go to a dog park	79.1	185	4.3	10	8.1	19	3.4	8	3.8	9	1.3	3	4.53	20.3
Target shooting	76.5	179	3.8	9	13.2	31	3.4	8	1.7	4	1.3	3	3.67	15.5
Participate in a winter activity: ski, sled	66.2	155	13.7	32	17.9	42	1.7	4	0	0	0.4	1	1.79	30
Nature study or environmental education activity	62.8	147	12.8	30	17.9	42	3.8	9	2.1	5	0.4	1	3.15	31.6
Tent camping	63.7	149	12	28	20.5	48	3.8	9	0	0	0	0	1.61	35.6
RV camping	78.6	184	3.8	9	13.7	32	2.6	6	0.9	2	0.4	1	2.03	24.1
Hunting	90.2	211	3	7	3.8	9	2.6	6	0	0	0.4	1	1.09	7.7
Rock or wall climbing	86.3	202	6	14	5.6	13	2.1	5	0	0	0	0	0.59	14.7
Participate in an extreme sport	93.2	218	2.1	5	3.4	8	0.9	2	0.4	1	0	0	0.52	9.4
Geo-caching	97	227	0.9	2	1.3	3	0.4	1	0.4	1	0	0	0.35	16.9

Figure 39. Mean Number of Days Spent on Outdoor Recreation Activities - PAG**Table 87. Recreation User Days - PAG**

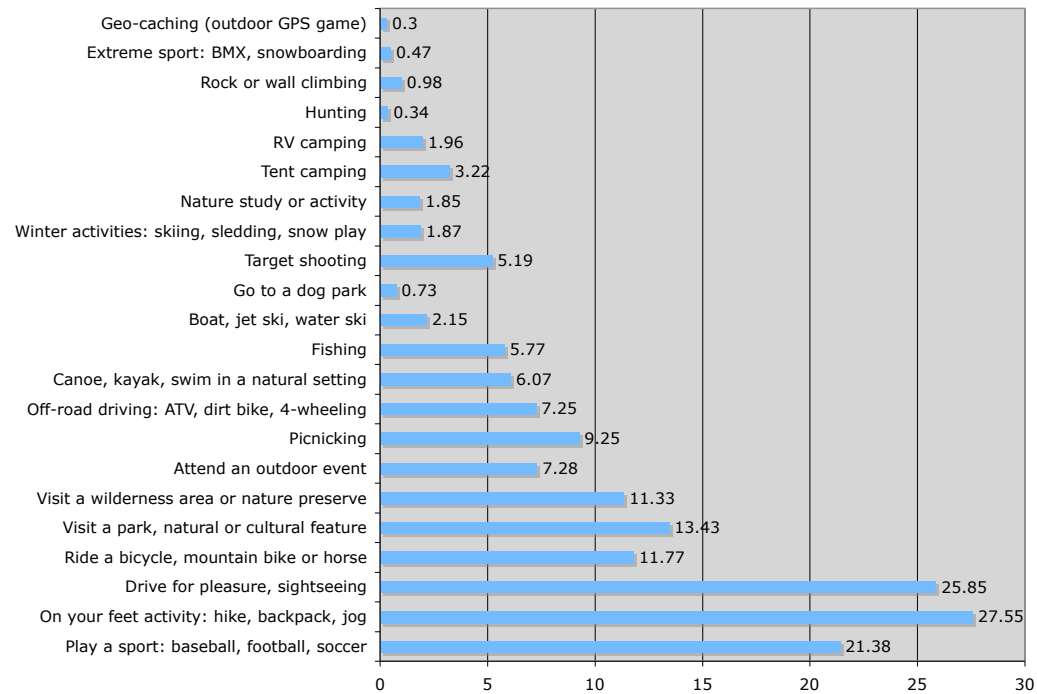
Recreation Activity	% of PAG Participating	Mean # of Days	# of Recreation User Days/year	# of People Recreating/day
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	67.1%	35.06	33,574,683	91,985
On your feet activity: hike, backpack, jog	78.2%	28.95	27,723,533	75,955
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing	82.9%	16.19	15,504,111	42,477
Ride a bicycle, mountain bike or horse	50.4%	19.84	18,999,478	52,053
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	86.7%	12.31	11,788,487	32,297
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	78.1%	10.91	10,447,798	28,624
Attend an outdoor event	71.8%	11.27	10,792,546	29,568
Picnicking	78.6%	8.19	7,843,031	21,488
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	27.4%	6.23	5,966,066	16,345
Canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	35.5%	3.86	3,696,471	10,127
Fishing	34.2%	4.1	3,926,303	10,757
Boat, jet ski, water ski	23.6%	2.43	2,327,053	6,375
Go to a dog park	20.9%	4.53	4,338,086	11,885
Target shooting	23.5%	3.67	3,514,520	9,629
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	33.8%	1.79	1,714,167	4,696
Nature study or educational activity	37.2%	3.15	3,016,550	8,264
Tent camping	36.3%	1.61	1,541,792	4,224
RV camping	21.4%	2.03	1,943,999	5,326
Hunting	9.8%	1.09	1,043,822	2,859
Rock or wall climbing	13.7%	0.59	565,005	1,548
Extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	6.8%	0.52	497,970	1,364
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	3%	0.35	335,172	918

Figure 40. Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities—PAG Percentages

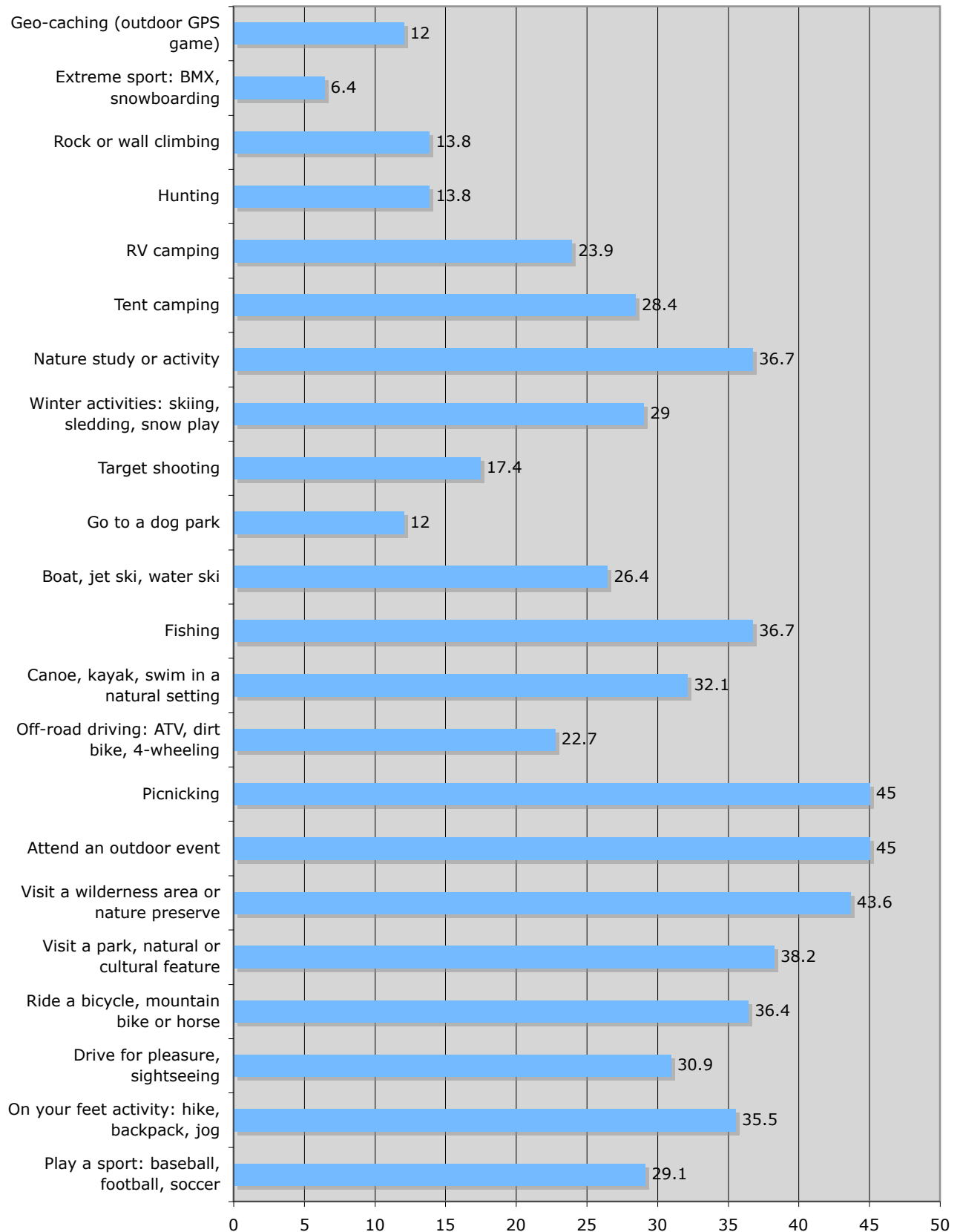
South Eastern Arizona Governments Organization—SEAGO
(includes Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz Counties)
Outdoor Recreation Participation Data

Table 88. Outdoor Recreation Participation - SEAGO

SEAGO	Not at all		Once		A few times		Once a month		Once a week		Twice a week		Mean	Percent who say use will increase
<i>Number of days per calendar year</i>	0		1		5		12		52		130			%
ACTIVITY	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N		
Play a sport	47.3	52	1.8	2	18.2	20	10.9	12	11.8	13	10	11	21.38	29.1
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike, jog	26.4	29	12.7	14	20	22	17.3	19	8.2	9	15.5	17	27.55	35.5
Driving in a motorized vehicle for pleasure on maintained roads-sightseeing	17.3	19	7.3	8	28.2	31	21.8	24	14.5	16	10.9	12	25.85	30.9
Riding something nonmotorized: bike, horse	60.9	67	8.2	9	9.1	10	10.9	12	5.5	6	5.5	6	11.77	36.4
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	12.7	14	17.3	19	43.6	48	15.5	17	6.4	7	4.5	5	13.43	38.2
Visit a wilderness area	22.9	25	22	24	33.9	37	12.8	14	3.7	4	4.6	5	11.33	43.6
Attend an outdoor event	31.8	35	13.6	15	32.7	36	16.4	18	4.5	5	0.9	1	7.28	45
Picnicking	17.4	19	4.6	5	54.1	59	18.3	20	3.7	4	1.8	2	9.25	45
Off-road driving	75.5	83	0.9	1	9.1	10	7.3	8	4.5	5	2.7	3	7.25	22.7
Participate in a non-motorized water activity: canoe, swim	60.6	66	14.7	16	14.7	16	5.5	6	1.8	2	2.8	3	6.07	32.1
Fishing	61.5	67	11.9	13	16.5	18	6.4	7	0.9	1	2.8	3	5.77	36.7
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, ski	78.2	86	8.2	9	9.1	10	3.6	4	0	0	0.9	1	2.15	26.4
Go to a dog park	94.5	103	0.9	1	2.8	3	0.9	1	0.9	1	0	0	0.73	12
Target shooting	70.6	77	4.6	5	15.6	17	4.6	5	2.8	3	1.8	2	5.19	17.4
Participate in a winter activity: ski, sled	71.6	78	17.4	19	10.1	11	0	0	0	0	0.9	1	1.87	29
Nature study or environmental education activity	67.3	74	11.8	13	16.4	18	3.6	4	0.9	1	0	0	1.85	36.7
Tent camping	63.3	69	12.8	14	17.4	19	4.6	5	0.9	1	0.9	1	3.22	28.4
RV camping	82.6	90	4.6	5	10.1	11	1.8	2	0	0	0.9	1	1.96	23.9
Hunting	90.8	99	4.6	5	3.7	4	0.9	1	0	0	0	0	0.34	13.8
Rock or wall climbing	87.2	95	5.5	6	4.6	5	1.8	2	0.9	1	0	0	0.98	13.8
Participate in an extreme sport	91.7	100	1.8	2	4.6	5	1.8	2	0	0	0	0	0.47	6.4
Geo-caching	94.5	103	0.9	1	3.7	4	0.9	1	0	0	0	0	0.3	12

Figure 41. Mean Number of Days Spent on Outdoor Recreation Activities - SEAGO**Table 89. Recreation User Days - SEAGO**

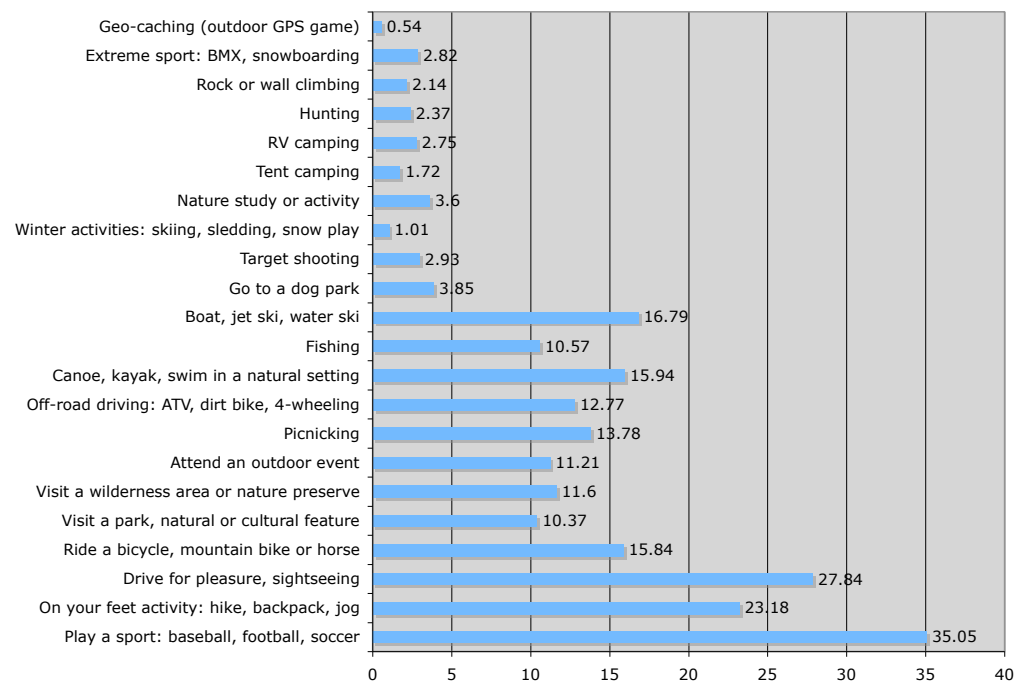
Recreation Activity	% of SEAGO Participating	Mean # of Days	# of Recreation User Days/year	# of People Recreating/day
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	52.7%	21.38	4,695,048	12,863
On your feet activity: hike, backpack, jog	73.6%	27.55	6,049,980	16,575
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing	82.7%	25.85	5,676,660	15,552
Ride a bicycle, mountain bike or horse	39.1%	11.77	2,584,692	7,081
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	87.3%	13.43	2,949,228	8,080
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	77.1%	11.33	2,488,068	6,816
Attend an outdoor event	68.2%	7.28	1,598,688	4,379
Picnicking	82.6%	9.25	2,031,300	5,565
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	24.5%	7.25	1,592,100	4,362
Canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	39.4%	6.07	1,332,972	3,652
Fishing	38.5%	5.77	1,267,092	3,471
Boat, jet ski, water ski	21.8%	2.15	474,140	1,299
Go to a dog park	5.5%	0.73	160,308	439
Target shooting	29.4%	5.19	1,139,724	3,122
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	28.4%	1.87	410,652	1,125
Nature study or educational activity	32.7%	1.85	406,260	1,113
Tent camping	36.7%	3.22	707,112	1,937
RV camping	17.4%	1.96	430,416	1,179
Hunting	9.2%	0.34	74,664	205
Rock or wall climbing	12.8%	0.98	215,208	589
Extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	8.3%	0.47	103,212	283
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	5.5%	0.3	65,880	180

Figure 42. Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities—SEAGO Percentages

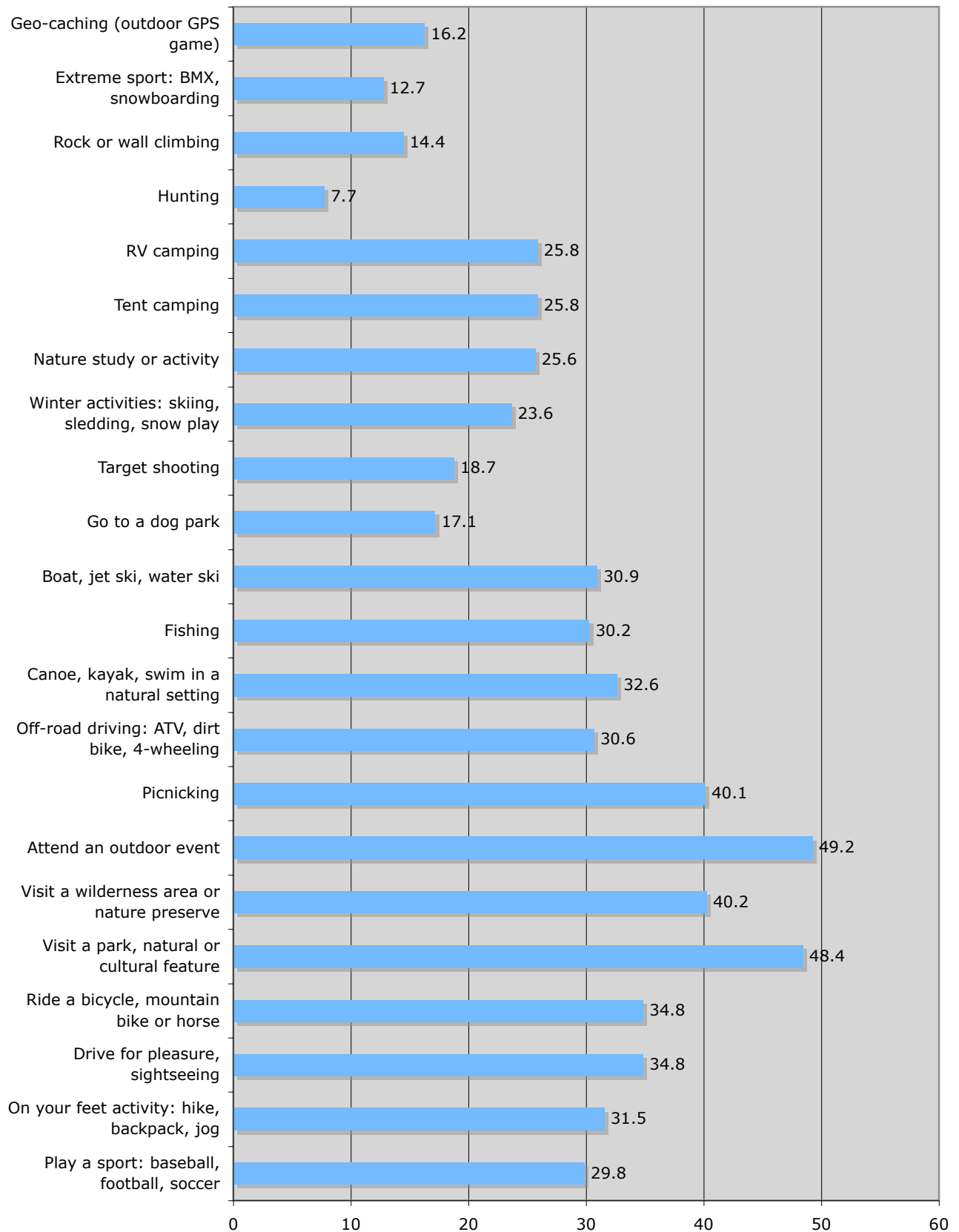
Western Arizona Council of Governments—WACOG
(includes La Paz, Mohave and Yuma Counties)
Outdoor Recreation Participation Data

Table 90. Outdoor Recreation Participation - WACOG

WACOG	Not at all		Once		A few times		Once a month		Once a week		Twice a week			Percent who say use will increase
<i>Number of days per calendar year</i>	0		1		5		12		52		130			
ACTIVITY	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	Mean	%
Play a sport	37.9	69	3.3	6	15.4	28	10.4	19	12.6	23	20.3	37	35.05	29.8
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike, jog	35.2	64	9.3	17	22.5	41	11.5	21	9.3	17	12.1	22	23.18	31.5
Driving in a motorized vehicle for pleasure on maintained roads-sightseeing	19.8	36	7.1	13	23.1	42	24.2	44	12.6	23	13.2	24	27.84	34.8
Riding something nonmotorized: bike, horse	54.9	100	4.4	8	17.6	32	8.8	16	6	11	8.2	15	15.84	34.8
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	24	44	19.1	35	35.5	65	12	22	6.6	12	2.7	5	10.37	48.4
Visit a wilderness area	33	60	14.8	27	31.3	57	11	20	5.5	10	4.4	8	11.6	40.2
Attend an outdoor event	29.3	54	16.3	30	33.7	62	10.9	20	6	11	3.8	7	11.21	49.2
Picnicking	27.9	51	6.6	12	39.9	73	14.8	27	5.5	10	5.5	10	13.78	40.1
Off-road driving	51.9	94	6.1	11	18.2	33	12.2	22	6.1	11	5.5	10	12.77	30.6
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, ski	52.7	96	6	11	17.6	32	8.2	15	6.6	12	8.8	16	16.79	32.6
Fishing	62.8	115	4.9	9	13.1	24	7.7	14	7.7	14	3.8	7	10.57	30.2
Participate in a non-motorized water activity: canoe, swim	52.2	95	6.6	12	20.3	37	7.1	13	4.9	9	8.8	16	15.94	30.9
Go to a dog park	83.5	152	5.5	10	4.9	9	2.2	4	2.2	4	1.6	3	3.85	17.1
Target shooting	71.6	131	3.3	6	14.2	26	8.7	16	2.2	4	0	0	2.93	18.7
Participate in a winter activity: ski, sled	72.7	133	13.7	25	10.9	20	2.7	5					1.01	23.6
Nature study or education activity	70.3	128	10.4	19	11	20	5.5	10	1.6	3	1.1	2	3.6	25.6
Tent camping	71.6	131	6.6	12	16.9	31	4.4	8	0.5	1	0	0	1.72	25.8
RV camping	68.7	125	6.6	12	16.5	30	7.1	13	0.5	1	0.5	1	2.75	25.8
Hunting	89.1	163	3.3	6	4.4	8	1.1	2	1.1	2	1.1	2	2.37	7.7
Rock or wall climbing	85.2	155	5.5	10	4.9	9	2.2	4	1.6	3	0.5	1	2.14	14.4
Participate in an extreme sport	89.6	163	3.3	6	3.3	6	1.6	3	0.5	1	1.6	3	2.82	12.7
Geo-caching	95.1	173	1.1	2	2.2	4	1.1	2	0.5	1	0	0	0.54	16.2

Figure 43. Mean Number of Days Spent on Outdoor Recreation Activities - WACOG**Table 91. Recreation User Days - WACOG**

Recreation Activity	% of WACOG Participating	Mean # of Days	# of Recreation User Days/year	# of People Recreating/day
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	62.1%	35.05	13,974,610	38,287
On your feet activity: hike, backpack, jog	64.8%	23.18	9,241,982	25,320
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing	80.2%	27.84	11,099,947	30,411
Ride a bicycle, mountain bike or horse	45.1%	15.84	6,315,487	17,303
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	76%	10.37	4,134,571	11,327
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	67%	11.6	4,624,978	12,671
Attend an outdoor event	70.7%	11.21	4,469,483	12,245
Picnicking	72.1%	13.78	5,494,155	15,052
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	48.1%	12.77	5,091,462	13,949
Canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	47.8%	15.94	6,355,358	17,412
Fishing	37.2%	10.57	4,214,312	11,546
Boat, jet ski, water ski	47.3%	16.79	6,694,257	18,340
Go to a dog park	16.5%	3.85	1,535,01	4,205
Target shooting	28.4%	2.93	1,168,206	3,200
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	27.3%	1.01	402,692	1,103
Nature study or educational activity	29.7%	3.6	1,435,338	3,932
Tent camping	28.4%	1.72	685,773	1,879
RV camping	31.3%	2.75	1,096,439	3,004
Hunting	10.9%	2.37	944,931	2,588
Rock or wall climbing	14.8%	2.14	853,229	2,338
Extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	10.4%	2.82	1,124,348	3,080
Geo-caching (outdoor GPS game)	4.9%	0.54	215,301	589

Figure 44. Future Need for Outdoor Recreation Activities—WACOG Percentages

Of the four community types represented in this sample, all but rural communities have playing sports as the most common recreation activity in terms of participation times per calendar year. Pleasure driving on maintained roads is closely rated as second for small cities and towns, and is the top recreation activity in rural communities. The main difference is in large cities, where there are more time and infrastructure barriers to pleasure driving.

Table 92. Recreation Participation by Community Type

ACTIVITY	Large City N = 465		Small City N = 278		Town N = 228		Rural Area N = 198	
	Mean Number of days per calendar year	Percent who say use will increase	Mean Number of days per calendar year	Percent who say use will increase	Mean Number of days per calendar year	Percent who say use will increase	Mean Number of days per calendar year	Percent who say use will increase
Attend an outdoor event	11.19	48.5%	10.37	49%	14.07	50.9%	9.32	45.9%
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	12.31	52.6%	13.52	44%	15.9	44.4%	7.36	48.6%
Visit a wilderness area, nature preserve	8.85	52.1%	14.45	46.7%	15.08	45.8%	13.58	40.8%
Play a sport	38.55	37.4%	33.72	34%	31.05	31.9%	26.4	28.6%
Participate in outdoor activity on your feet	26.64	43.6%	27.4	36.4%	32.64	34%	24.58	34.1%
Riding on something non-motorized: bike	16.89	39.4%	15.58	38.9%	17.46	34.7%	22.15	30.4%
Driving in motorized vehicle: sightseeing	15.82	34.6%	26.39	36%	28.3	30.6%	27.7	33%
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4XD	4.55	23.3%	9.09	26.3%	11.31	22.8%	17.55	26.5%
Participate in motorized water activity: boat, ski	3.43	31.5%	9.21	29.7%	4.71	28.4%	5.78	30.8%
Participate in non-motorized water activity: canoe	5.22	33.8%	9.51	33.7%	8	38.1%	7.67	27.7%
Fishing	3.97	33.6%	8.67	37.1%	5.34	29.6%	10.14	34.2%
Hunting	0.66	10.1%	2.16	10.1%	1.89	10.2%	2.88	14.2%
Target shooting	2.61	18.6%	3.46	20.2%	3.28	10.2%	5.38	21.3%
Picnicking	7.76	43.2%	10.44	38.5%	11.08	42.3%	11.02	34.8%
Tent camping	2.1	34.8%	3.52	32.3%	3.79	31.2%	4.17	26.1%
RV camping	1.44	24.3%	2.59	23.8%	2.2	27.9%	2.74	29.3%
Participate in a winter activity	1.69	35.4%	4.83	29.1%	4.24	33.3%	3.34	23.4%
Nature study or education activity	2.26	36.4%	3.86	30.1%	4.31	35%	2.46	31.9%
Go to a dog park	4.72	20.1%	3.04	17.3%	4.45	19.6%	4.81	14.2%
Rock or wall climbing	0.99	16.1%	2.65	16.1%	1.15	14%	1.28	9.8%
Geo-caching	0.26	19%	0.42	14.2%	0.19	13.2%	0.13	17.8%
Participate in an extreme sport	1.03	9.8%	2.3	14.5%	1.16	7%	1.01	6.5%

Hispanic respondents rated pleasure driving on maintained roads and attending outdoor events as receiving more participation times per calendar year, on average, than did non-Hispanic respondents (Table 93). In contrast, Hispanic respondents participate less in motorized water activities, RV camping, and environmental studies, on average, than non-Hispanics. Average participation times per calendar year for playing a sport also scored less for Hispanics. Some possible explanations for these differences might be that because Hispanics are more family oriented they prefer to spend time together in the vehicle and at events. Another possible explanation is that Hispanics are often in lower income brackets and cannot justify the expenses associated with motorized water and camping activities.

Table 93. Recreation Participation by Hispanic/Non-Hispanic Origin

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITY	Hispanic N = 248	Non-Hispanic N = 941
	<i>Mean Number of days per calendar year</i>	
Attend an outdoor event, sports, concert, festival	13.04	10.76
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	12.92	12.45
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	10.54	12.73
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer, tennis	29.41	35.22
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike	25.97	27.47
Riding on something nonmotorized: bike, horse	14.83	18.14
Driving on maintained roads for pleasure, sightseeing	26.52	21.66
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	7.9	9.18
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, jet ski	2.51	5.89
Participate in a nonmotorized water activity: canoe	7.19	7.26
Fishing	4.66	6.73
Hunting	1.63	1.59
Target shooting	3.09	3.41
Picnicking	10.25	9.29
Tent camping	3.51	2.96
RV camping	1.11	2.3
Participate in a winter activity: ski, sled, snow play	3.45	3.09
Nature study or environmental education activity	1.32	3.52
Go to a dog park	3.85	3.89
Rock or wall climbing	1.16	1.51
Geo-caching	0.18	0.29
Participate in an extreme sport	1.24	1.35

Recreation participation by gender reveals that for most activities questioned in the survey, the male respondents participate at higher mean values, or more times on average per calendar year (Table 94). The exceptions to this are attending outdoor events, visiting cultural features, and picnicking where more female respondents participate. These differences might be explained by the common understanding that many men seek more adventurous forms of recreation such as off-road driving, target shooting, extreme sports; and most women prefer more passive activities and social interaction through attending outdoor events, visiting parks, environmental or cultural learning, and picnicking. Both genders participate equally in activities such as hiking, jogging, canoeing, kayaking, swimming and going to dog parks.

Table 94. Recreation Participation by Gender

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITY	Male N = 469	Female N = 767
	<i>Mean Number of days per calendar year</i>	
Attend an outdoor event	8.78	12.65
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	10.47	14.06
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	14.8	10.65
Play a sport	36.48	32.92
Participate in an outdoor activity on your feet: hike, jog	27.36	27.95
Riding on something non - motorized: bike, horse	21.42	15.25
Driving motorized vehicle for pleasure on roads	25.69	21.17
Off-road driving	14.76	5.24
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, ski	6.97	4.17
Participate in a non-motorized water activity: canoe	7.9	6.86
Fishing	8.34	4.87
Hunting	2.87	0.91
Target shooting	5.66	1.78
Picnicking	7.77	10.6
Tent camping	3.76	2.6
RV camping	2.12	1.95
Participate in a winter activity: ski, sled, snow play	3	3.25
Nature study or environmental education activity	2.81	3.25
Go to a dog park	4.08	4.36
Rock or wall climbing	2.28	0.87
Geo-caching	0.19	0.31
Participate in an extreme sport	2.6	0.65

There is often a correlation between education and income. Recreation participation for activities such as playing sports and foot-based outdoor activities, as both degrees of education and income increase, so too do the mean levels of participation times for these events. One exception to these trends is that respondents with less than a ninth grade education had the second highest mean levels of participation days for foot-based outdoor activities than others.

Education and income shared similar trends for pleasure driving, where mean participation times are higher for lesser degrees of education and income, then drop low for mid-range education and income, and increase again for the highest levels of education and income. A likely explanation for this is that respondents on the lower end of these spectrums may be working more part time jobs giving them more free time and days off to enjoy this activity. Similarly, those at the high end of the scales might be retired or high enough in their career where they have ample time off as well. Those in the mid ranges likely are more bound to their careers with limited expendable time for their recreation pursuits.

Households with children under six years old are more likely to play sports than those without children under six years old. Both households with children less than six years old and households with children between six and eighteen years of age are more likely to visit natural or cultural features. Households with children under the age of six are more likely or indifferent to participate in most activities surveyed, except for visiting wilderness areas, rock climbing, motorized water activities, RV camping, and nature study.

Most of these activities do not receive higher levels of participations from these households because they require physical and mental engagement that young children do not have (e.g., rock climbing, motorized water activities). Some of these activities are typical characteristics of retirees (e.g., RV camping), and independent-minded individuals (e.g., wilderness areas, nature study).



Family outings to natural features such as Slide Rock State Park near Sedona are a popular activity in Arizona.

Similarly, households with children between six and eighteen years of age are more likely or indifferent to participate in most activities surveyed, except for motorized water activities, RV camping, and going to dog parks. For the same reasons as listed above, individuals with children in this age category are less likely to participate in these activities.

Dog parks are visited more by individuals with no children this age, possibly because they have more time to spend with their dog because they do not have children or possibly they choose to interact with a dog for companionship instead of having children with which to be engaged.

Finally, mean recreation participation times vary depending on disability (Table 95).

Respondents with disabilities participated fewer times, on average for most activities listed except for visiting wilderness areas and nature preserves, pleasure driving on maintained roads, participation in non-motorized water activities, fishing, picnicking, and nature study than people without disabilities.

These results indicate that although persons with disabilities do not participate in some types of recreation activities as much as non-disabled people, they find alternatives to meet their recreation needs. Regarding individuals' responses that live with someone else who has a disability in the household, there are differences also in their recreation activity participation rates. For example, respondents from a household where someone else is disabled are more likely to attend outdoor events, visit parks, natural and cultural features, and ride non-motorized recreation vehicles.

Table 95. Recreation Participation by Disability

OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITY	Respondent has a disability N = 136	Someone in household has a disability N = 93	No one in household has a disability N = 959
	Mean Number days per calendar year	Mean Number days per calendar year	Mean Number days per calendar year
Attend an outdoor event, sports, concert, fair	6.66	12.32	11.72
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	8.95	16.55	12.76
Visit a wilderness area	14.22	11.95	12.01
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer, tennis	25.75	29.54	35.53
Participate in outdoor activity on your feet: hike	21.12	22.09	28.91
Riding on something nonmotorized: bike, horse	9.65	23.09	18.08
Drive maintained roads for pleasure, sightseeing	27.43	25.63	22.05
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	8.01	9.89	8.96
Participate in a motorized water activity: boat, ski	3.71	4.2	5.62
Participate in nonmotorized water activity: canoe	8.56	6.28	7.17
Fishing	10.18	6.99	5.75
Hunting	0.25	1.56	1.77
Target shooting	4.09	4.46	3.16
Picnicking	12.45	11.78	9.03
Tent camping	2.8	2.22	3.2
RV camping	2.53	1.26	2.07
Participate in winter activity: ski, sled, snow play	2.2	3.86	3.21
Nature study or environmental education activity	6.76	1.72	2.75
Go to a dog park	4.27	1.41	4.36
Rock or wall climbing	1.35	0.91	1.49
Geo-caching	0.14	0.09	0.3
Participate in an extreme sport	0.05	0.6	1.56

Providers Survey

The providers survey questions regarding outdoor recreation activity participation were asked a bit differently than the general public survey. This section of the online survey for recreation providers focused on the provider's perspective regarding the public's current participation levels and future needs of outdoor recreation in 20 recreation activity categories.

The questions in this section asked respondents to assess the level of current use and level of future need for various activities in the providers' management area on a five point scale where one (1) is no current use or future need and five (5) is high current use or future need. Because of this difference in the questions, there is no way to determine mean number of days, hence the following tables and charts simply show the mean representing high to low current use or high to low future need for a particular activity.

Table 96 and Figure 45 show the difference in mean values between current and future recreation trends for the entire statewide providers sample. Table 97 shows the mean differences between current and future recreation trends as reported by recreation providers within the six Council of

Governments (COG) jurisdictions in Arizona and a category titled “statewide” which includes respondents who say their area of management jurisdiction is statewide, not regional. This latter statewide category represents primarily state and federal agency respondents.

Table 96. Providers’ Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Participation Rates—All Providers

Outdoor Recreation Activity	Current Use	Future Need
	Mean	Mean
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	2.6	2.71
On your feet activities: hike, backpack, jog	3.83	4.2
Drive for pleasure, sightseeing on maintained roads	3.46	3.52
Nonmotorized riding activities: bicycle, mountain bike, horse	3.3	3.98
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	4.03	3.9
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	3.26	3.73
Attend an outdoor event: sports, concert, festival	3.05	3.23
Picnicking	3.98	4.19
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	3.08	3.32
Nonmotorized water activities: canoe, kayak, swim in a natural setting	2.49	2.85
Fishing	3.16	3.19
Motorized water activities: boat, jet ski, water ski	2.13	2.25
Target shooting	2.44	2.64
Winter activities: skiing, sledding, snow play	1.68	1.97
Nature study or environmental education activity	3.07	3.77
Tent camping	3.23	3.6
RV camping	3.15	3.5
Hunting	3	3.02
Emerging activities: dog park, rock climbing, geocaching	2.52	2.97
Extreme sports: BMX, snowboarding	1.94	2.39

Regarding current use, the highest rated activity is *visiting a park or natural or cultural feature* (4.03). Interestingly, this activity is the only one providers indicated a lower future need (3.90).

Other activities rated with a high current use are *picnicking* (3.98) and *on your feet activities such as hiking, jogging* (3.83).

The activities rated as having the lowest current use are *winter activities* (1.68) and *extreme sports* (1.94).

The five activities providers predict will have the highest increased future need are *nature study/ environmental education* (+.70), *nonmotorized riding activities such as mountain biking* (+.68), *visiting wilderness areas/nature preserves* (+.47), *emerging activities* (+.45), and *extreme sports* (+.45).

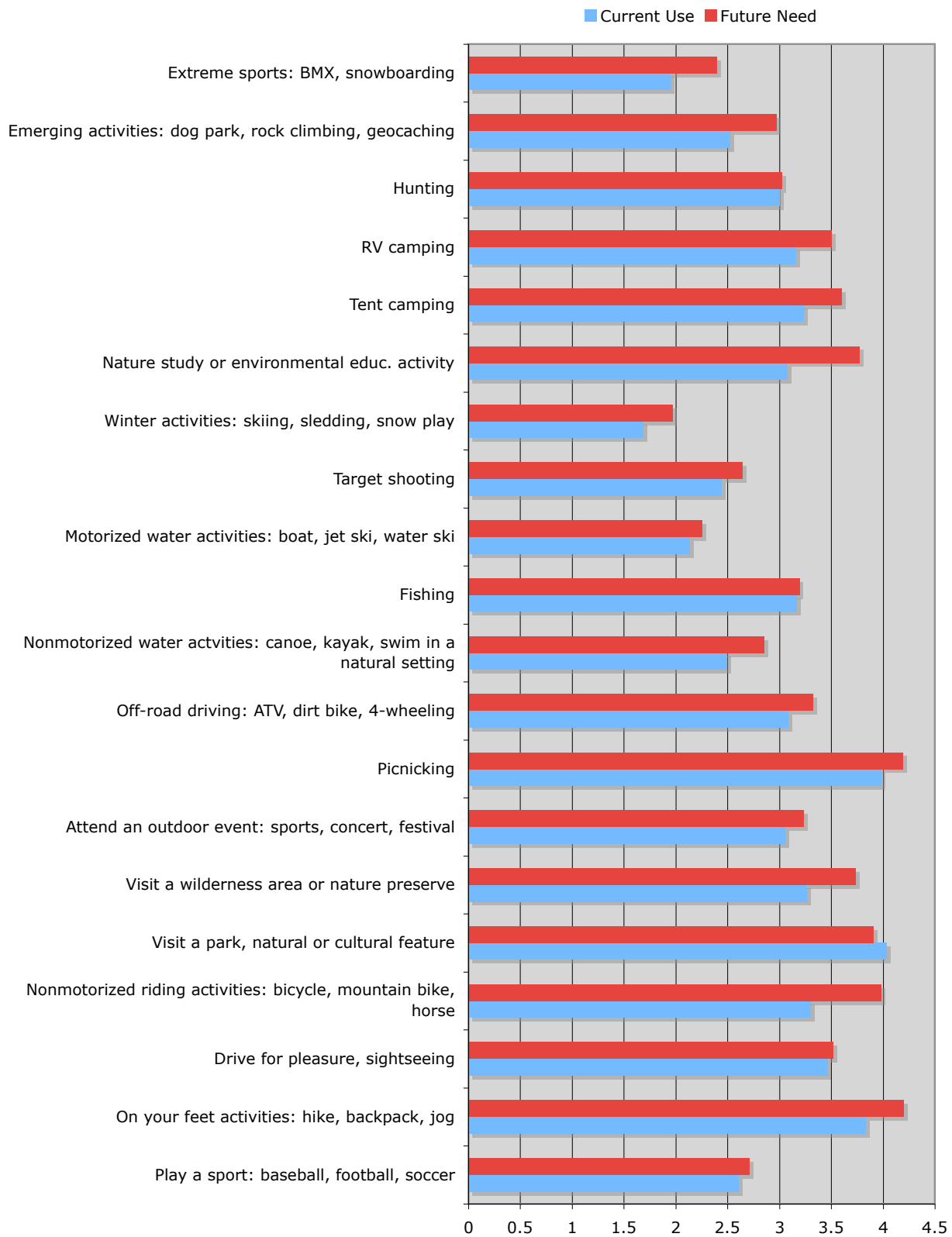
Figure 45. Comparison of Providers' Assessment of Current and Future Participation Rates—All Providers

Table 97. Comparison of Providers' Assessment of Outdoor Recreation Participation by Region

By Provider Jurisdiction— within a COG or statewide	CAAG	MAG	NACOG	PAG	SEAGO	WACOG	Statewide
Recreation Category	Participation Mean: Current Use/Future Need (1=none; 5=high)						
Play a sport: baseball, football, soccer	1.9/2.0	3.76/3.75	2.78/2.71	3.14/3.29	2.69/2.75	1.92/2.31	1.73/2.07
Outdoor activity on your feet: hike, backpack, jog	4.2/4.2	3.29/3.82	4.24/4.36	4.29/4.86	3.56/4.53	3.07/3.64	4.27/4.27
Driving in a motorized vehicle for pleasure, sightseeing	3.5/ 3.9	2.44/2.53	3.74/3.72	3.57/3.57	3.33/3.87	3.71/3.71	3.93/3.53
Riding non-motorized: bicycle, mountain bike, horse	2.6/3.5	3.65/4.12	3.83/4.28	3.57/4.0	3.19/4.19	2.5/3.36	3.33/4.0
Visit a park, natural or cultural feature	4.3/3.9	4.06/4.06	4.2/3.8	4.71/5.0	3.73/3.69	3.33/3.53	4.2/3.93
Visit a wilderness area or nature preserve	3.2/3.7	2.94/3.65	3.63/3.88	4.14/4.71	3.69/3.88	2.57/3.29	2.87/3.4
Attend an outdoor event: concert, festival, sports event	2.8/2.78	3.94/3.94	3.2/3.38	4.14/4.29	2.88/3.31	2.57/2.71	2.07/2.33
Picnicking	3.7/3.8	4.12/4.41	4.08/4.2	4.0/4.43	4.13/4.5	3.43/3.86	4.2/4.07
Off-road driving: ATV, dirt bike, 4-wheeling	2.6/3.2	2.44/2.71	3.5/ 3.76	1.71/2.29	3.06/3.63	3.57/3.57	3.6/3.27
Non-motorized water activity: canoe, swim in natural setting	2.0/2.4	2.24/2.88	2.79/3.04	1.71/2.29	2.5/2.93	2.5/2.79	2.93/3.07
Fishing	2.4/2.8	3.29/ 3.56	3.5/3.52	2.57/2.71	3.25/3.38	2.71/2.64	3.53/3.07
Motorized water activity: boat, jet ski, water ski	1.1/1.11	2.33/2.5	2.13/2.16	1.43/1.86	1.93/2.47	2.5/ 2.64	2.8/2.4
Target shooting	2.9/2.7	2.13/2.5	2.57/2.96	1.57/2.0	2.69/ 3.06	2.14/2.29	2.67/2.4
Participate in a winter activity: skiing, sledding, snow play	1.4/1.4	1.4/1.53	2.41/2.76	1.14/1.86	1.33/1.8	1.43/1.64	1.93/2.0
Nature study or environmental education activity	3.3/3.9	2.59/3.41	3.33/3.76	3.71/4.14	3.07/ 4.27	2.43/3.21	3.33/3.93
Tent camping	2.4/3.5	2.13/2.82	3.63/3.96	3.0/3.29	3.53/4.0	3.07/3.07	4.27/4.2
RV camping	2.3/3.0	2.06/2.5	3.46/3.92	2.29/3.29	3.63/3.88	3.21/3.21	4.2/4.13
Hunting	3.3/3.3	2.25/2.38	3.43/3.36	1.86/1.86	3.31/ 3.44	3.0/3.14	3.13/2.93
Emerging Activities: dog park, rock climbing, geocaching	2.0/2.8	3.41/3.65	2.82/3.13	2.86/3.29	1.93/2.53	2.38/2.71	1.93/2.6
Participate in an extreme sport: BMX, snowboarding	1.9/2.0	2.47/2.94	2.05/2.61	2.14/2.71	1.47/2.6	1.93/2.21	1.6/1.47

The means in bold are the highest current use or future need for that activity. Providers in all regions agree that several activities will see substantial increases in use in the future: nonmotorized riding such as mountain biking, visiting wilderness areas/nature preserves, nature study, and emerging activities.

Those providers who manage statewide resources, primarily federal agencies, were the only group to predict numerous declines in future need for several activities: fishing, driving for pleasure, off-road driving, visiting a park or natural or cultural feature, boating, hunting, target shooting. This finding does not agree with the findings from the public's responses.